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240 FBS & FCS TEAM PREVIEWS

# Sporting News

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# COLLEGE FOOTBALL '09

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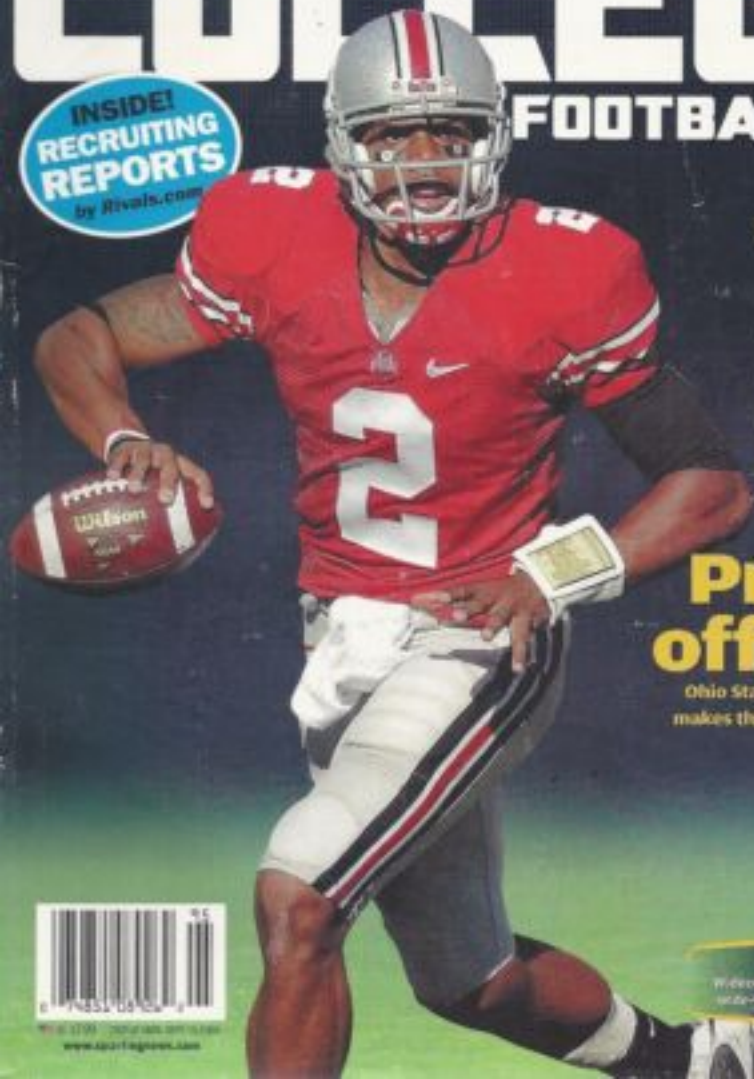

## SN's TOP 10

1. FLORIDA
2. TEXAS
3. OKLAHOMA
4. USC
5. OLE MISS
6. VIRGINIA TECH
7. OREGON
8. LSU
9. OHIO STATE
10. OKLAHOMA STATE

TOP 25 › PG. 8

## Pryor offense

Ohio State's Terrelle Pryor makes the Buckeye attack go

**TOP CAT**

Wideout Marty Gilyard leads a wide-open Cincinnati offense

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# Mess with the Bulls and get the horns

College football's best-coached team isn't located in Florida, California or Texas.

Almost anyone can win with Tim Tebow, or draw recruits to sunny Los Angeles or point to a case full of national championship trophies.

Where, then, is the best-coached college team in the nation? In Buffalo.

Just a few years ago, the Bulls were the epitome of college football's "have-nots." Now, they are a legitimate Mid-American Conference power and bowl contender under coach Turner Gill.

But the road to the top has been full of potholes. When Gill accepted the job in December 2005 (he had no other head-coaching offers), the Bulls had only won five games in their previous four seasons.

During the 2006 campaign, they limped to a 2-10 mark, as they were repeatedly used as a practice dummies and an almost-certain win.

It was in stark contrast to Gill's playing days at Nebraska. The starting quarterback for Tom Osborne's Cornhuskers in the early 1980s, Gill went 28-2 as a three-year starter and was a Heisman finalist his senior year.

Lucky for the Bulls, Gill wasn't accustomed to losing.

Buffalo showed signs of life in 2007 as it stumbled through its early nonconference opponents. But when conference play began, the Bulls fought their way to a 5-3 league mark (5-7 overall) and put themselves in the East Division title hunt.

The breakthrough came last year. Gill's persistence and grit paid off, and Buffalo kept winning, though none of the wins was easy.

The Bulls tied a Football Bowl Subdivision record with four overtime games (3 wins), including a 40-34 double-OT victory at Bowling Green to lock up the MAC East title.

If that wasn't enough, Gill coached a stunning 42-24 win over a previously unbeaten and then-No. 12 Ball State to claim the conference championship.

After 50 years of sleeping through the postseason, the Bulls claimed a bowl invite (to the International Bowl), the second in the school's 94-year history of playing football. But it was the first bid to be accepted.

(The 1958 Bulls were asked to play in the Tangerine Bowl against Florida State, but declined when it was learned that Buffalo's two black players would not be allowed to compete against white players at the game site in Orlando.)

In the end, the Bulls lost 38-20 to Connecticut last winter, but finished the season 8-6—a far cry from their two-win campaign of 2006.

Now teams are taking notice. With Gill's first-class attitude, determination and great coaching ability, offers to coach BCS programs are rolling in. This past offseason, Auburn and Syracuse both approached Gill about their coaching vacancies.

Though he didn't get either job, an elite BCS program eventually is going to nab this "must-have." And when Gill finally has sunny weather, a big trophy case or a star quarterback, the possibilities will be endless.

**TYLER NELSON**
COLLEGE FOOTBALL EDITOR

PAUL HOKANSON

**SportingNews YEARBOOKS**

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# Most handicappers NEVER reach the heights.

(Some don't even try.)

# ME? I LIVE HERE! COME AND JOIN ME!

Every Opening Day I am ready to leap tall buildings in a single bound. Last year I exploded for **11-4 (73.3%) in the colleges** and **15-6 (71.4%) in the NFL. We swept all our top rated special plays and cleared 42 net units.** 2008 was not a one-time fluke: **We win big EVERY September – for a good reason:**

**Jim Hurley's NETWORK®**, is my national task force of handicappers, stat men and analysts. After 24 years of success, we are the most experienced but most under-publicized legend in football. We don't just cover conferences, sift the data, and figure matchups. We dig beneath surface factors to come up with fresh insights on every game. That's how we get the drop on Vegas and pounce on their weakest lines!

Subscriber **J. Dudley** of Cleveland wrote us, ***"Thank you for the winners – thank you for the confidence!"*** **Steve T.** of Bellville NY wrote: ***"Your opening two weeks were brilliant. Your August 28 Grand Slam set, me up for my best season ever!"*** (Testimonials available on request.)

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- **I guarantee you MUST make $3,000 in profit** - or play the rest of the season **FREE**!
- If I **DO** come through, you agree to take my service for the remaining 13 weeks for only $150. Nobody – *nobody* – dares match that guarantee!

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### 1. FREE PRE-SEASON

I'll say it till I'm blue in the face: ***pre-season games are EASIER to win than regular season games.*** We know which QB's are starting, how long the "A" team is in the game, which coaches are going all-out, who's only scrimmaging. It's money in the bank! Remember: dollars you make in August can be turned around five times by December!

### 2. FREE: 100 STARS OF EARLY BIRD BONUS PLAYS:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aug 10 | **10-STAR HALL OF FAME GAME** | | |
| *Last Year:* | **Redskins (-4½)** Colts | 30-16 | **WON!** |
| Aug 15 | **10-STAR PRE-SEASON GAME OF YEAR** | | |
| *Last Year:* | **Eagles (+2½)** Patriots | 27-17 | **WON!** |
| Sep 5 | **10-STAR BACK TO SCHOOL PARLAY** | | |
| *Last Year:* | **South Carolina (+7½)** Georgia | 7-14 | **WON!** |
| | **Notre Dame(+2)** Michigan | 35-17 | **WON!** |
| Sep 12/13 | **60-STAR SATURDAY / SUNDAY SIXPACK** | | |
| (NEW) | **60 WINNING UNITS OF SUPERPLAYS** | | |
| Sep 19 | **10 STAR GOLDEN GAME OF THE YEAR** | | |
| *Last Year:* | **UNLV (-2)** Iowa State | 34-31 | **WON!** |

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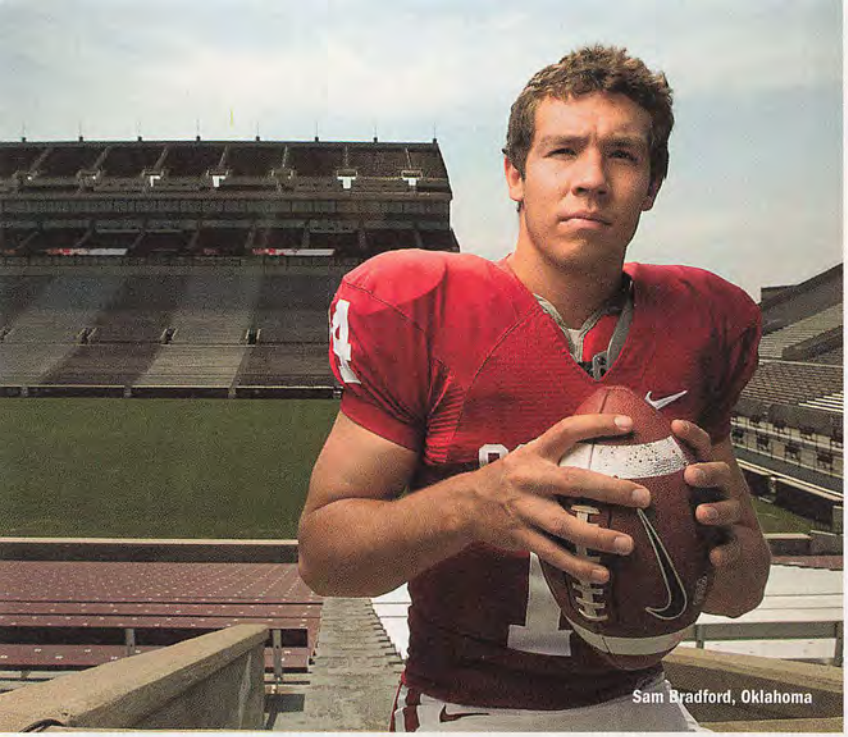
Sam Bradford, Oklahoma

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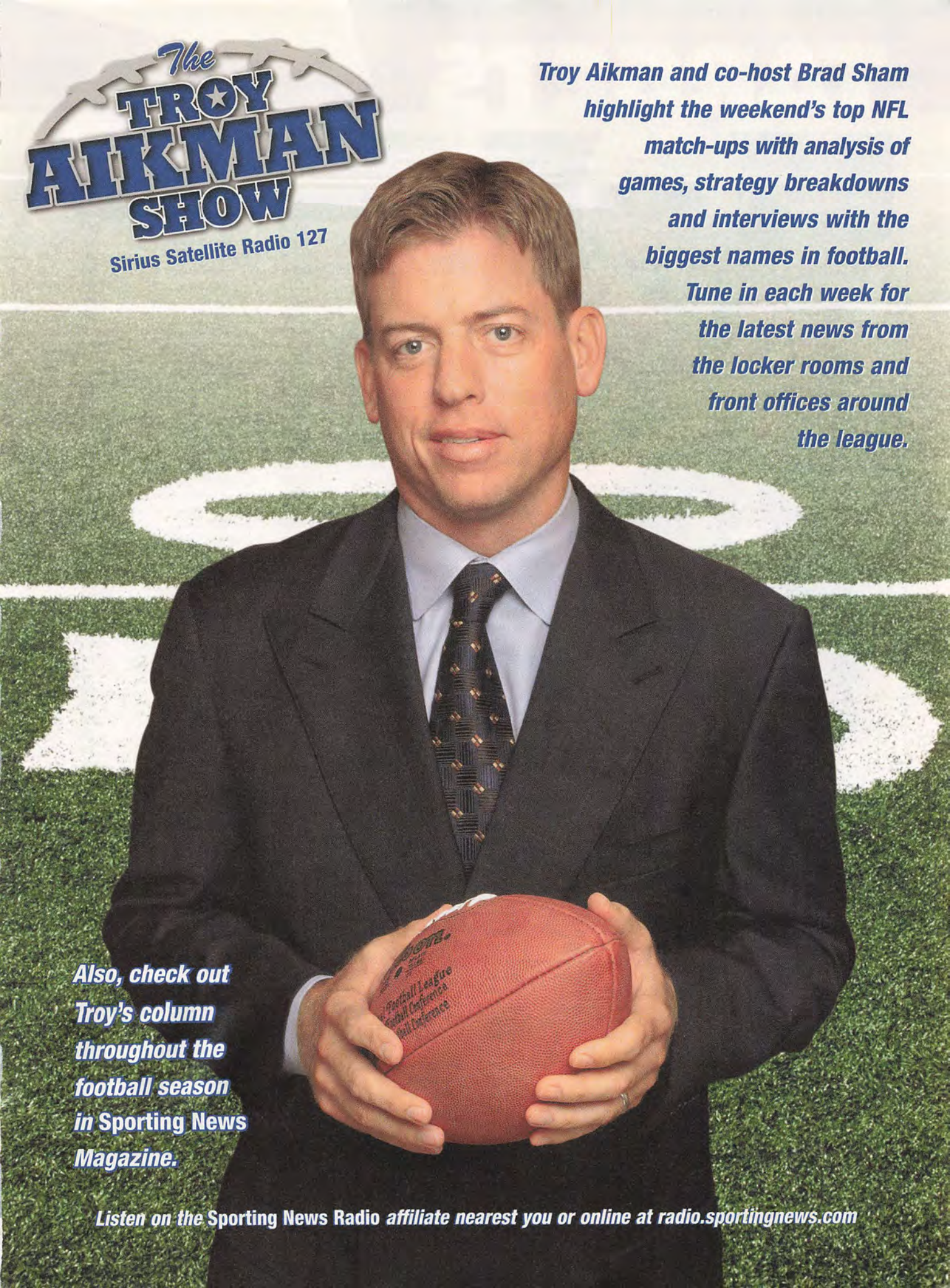
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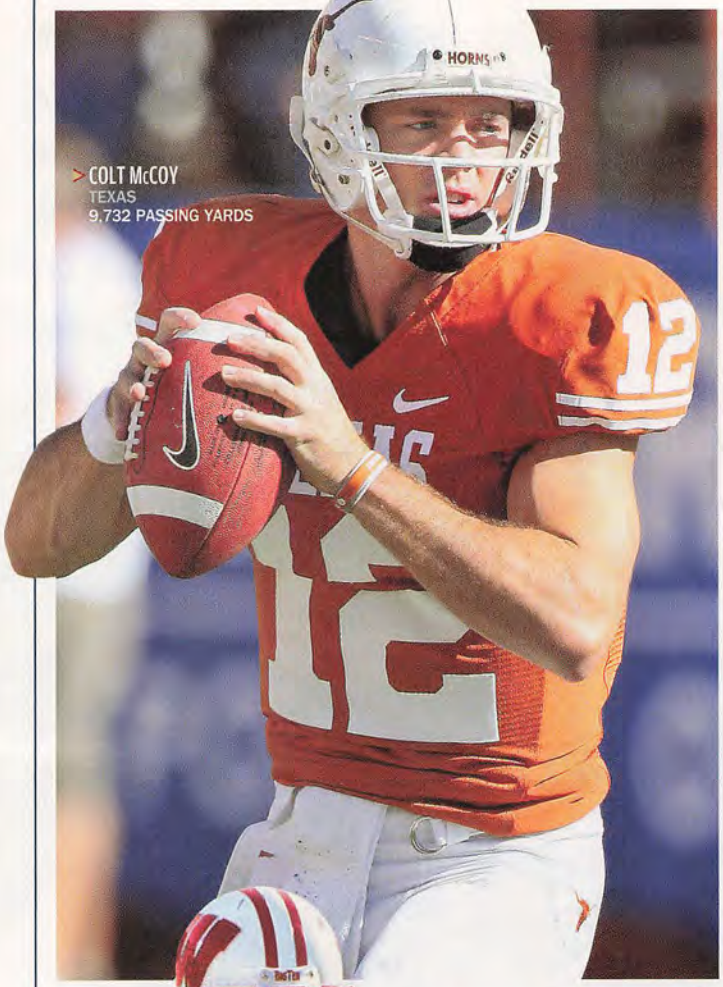
# TARGETS

—Compiled by Matt McKenzie

A look at college football's all-time Division I-A leaders and this year's players looking to challenge them.

▸ ACTIVE PLAYERS IN CAPS ▸ STATISTICS COURTESY OF NCAA



▸ COLT McCOY
TEXAS
9,732 PASSING YARDS

## PASSING YARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| David Neill, *Nevada* | 10,903 |
| Alex Brink, *Washington State* | 10,887 |
| Danny Wuerffel, *Florida* | 10,875 |
| Ben Roethlisberger, *Miami (Ohio)* | 10,829 |
| Brian Brohm, *Louisville* | 10,775 |
| Chad Pennington, *Marshall* | 10,698 |
| Matt Leinart, *USC* | 10,693 |
| Kevin Sweeney, *Fresno State* | 10,623 |
| Andrew Walter, *Arizona State* | 10,617 |
| Brett Basanez, *Northwestern* | 10,580 |
| Doug Flutie, *Boston College* | 10,579 |
| Steve Stenstrom, *Stanford* | 10,531 |
| Rudy Carpenter, *Arizona State* | 10,491 |
| Jared Lorenzen, *Kentucky* | 10,354 |
| Brian McClure, *Bowling Green* | 10,280 |
| Troy Kopp, *Pacific* | 10,258 |
| Danny Wimprine, *Memphis* | 10,215 |
| Paul Pinegar, *Fresno State* | 10,145 |
| Eli Manning, *Ole Miss* | 10,119 |
| Glenn Foley, *Boston College* | 10,042 |
| Cade McNown, *UCLA* | 10,008 |

### Knocking on the door
*(active career leaders)*

| | |
|---|---|
| COLT McCOY, *Texas* | 9,732 |
| DAN LeFEVOUR, *Central Michigan* | 9,467 |
| RUSTY SMITH, *Florida Atlantic* | 8,197 |

## TOUCHDOWNS

| | |
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| DeAngelo Williams, *Memphis* | 60 |
| Eric Crouch, *Nebraska* | 59 |
| Glenn Davis, *Army* | 59 |
| Tony Dorsett, *Pittsburgh* | 59 |
| Dwone Hicks, *Middle Tennessee* | 59 |
| DonTrell Moore, *New Mexico* | 59 |
| Troy Edwards, *Louisiana Tech* | 57 |
| Ken Simonton, *Oregon State* | 57 |
| LenDale White, *USC* | 57 |
| Garrett Wolfe, *Northern Illinois* | 57 |
| Steve Owens, *Oklahoma* | 56 |
| Chris Lemon, *Nevada* | 56 |
| Lee Suggs, *Virginia Tech* | 56 |
| Steve Slaton, *West Virginia* | 55 |
| Skip Hicks, *UCLA* | 54 |
| Barry Sanders, *Oklahoma State* | 54 |
| LaDainian Tomlinson, *TCU* | 54 |

### Knocking on the door
*(active career leaders)*

| | |
|---|---|
| TIM TEBOW, *Florida* | 43 |
| CHRIS BROWN, *Oklahoma* | 37 |
| DAMION FLETCHER, *Southern Miss* | 37 |
| JAMES STARKS, *Buffalo* | 37 |

## POINTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Travis Prentice, *Miami (Ohio)* | 468 |
| Ricky Williams, *Texas* | 452 |
| Art Carmody, *Louisville* | 433 |
| Kevin Kelly, *Penn State* | 425 |
| Roman Anderson, *Houston* | 423 |

▸ RON DAYNE
WISCONSIN
63 TOUCHDOWNS

## PASSING YARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| Timmy Chang, *Hawaii* | 17,072 |
| Graham Harrell, *Texas Tech* | 15,793 |
| Ty Detmer, *BYU* | 15,031 |
| Colt Brennan, *Hawaii* | 14,193 |
| Philip Rivers, *N.C. State* | 13,484 |
| Kevin Kolb, *Houston* | 12,964 |
| Tim Rattay, *Louisiana Tech* | 12,746 |
| Luke McCown, *Louisiana Tech* | 12,666 |
| Chris Redman, *Louisville* | 12,541 |
| Chase Daniel, *Missouri* | 12,515 |
| Kliff Kingsbury, *Texas Tech* | 12,429 |
| Byron Leftwich, *Marshall* | 11,903 |
| Chase Holbrook, *New Mexico State* | 11,846 |
| Brady Quinn, *Notre Dame* | 11,762 |
| David Greene, *Georgia* | 11,528 |
| Gino Guidugli, *Cincinnati* | 11,453 |
| Todd Santos, *San Diego State* | 11,425 |
| Carson Palmer, *USC* | 11,388 |
| Tim Lester, *Western Michigan* | 11,299 |
| Derek Anderson, *Oregon State* | 11,249 |
| Chris Leak, *Florida* | 11,213 |
| Peyton Manning, *Tennessee* | 11,201 |
| Curtis Painter, *Purdue* | 11,163 |
| Eric Zeier, *Georgia* | 11,153 |
| Jordan Palmer, *UTEP* | 11,084 |
| Charlie Frye, *Akron* | 11,049 |
| John Beck, *BYU* | 11,021 |
| Ryan Schneider, *UCF* | 10,976 |
| Paul Smith, *Tulsa* | 10,924 |
| Alex Van Pelt, *Pittsburgh* | 10,913 |
| Drew Brees, *Purdue* | 10,909 |

## POINTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Taurean Henderson, *Texas Tech* | 414 |
| Billy Bennett, *Georgia* | 409 |
| Brock Forsey, *Boise State* | 408 |
| Cedric Benson, *Texas* | 404 |
| Jeremy Ito, *Rutgers* | 400 |
| Carlos Huerta, *Miami (Fla.)* | 397 |
| Jason Elam, *Hawaii* | 395 |
| Anthony Thompson, *Indiana* | 394 |
| Nick Novak, *Maryland* | 393 |
| Derek Schmidt, *Florida State* | 393 |
| Kris Brown, *Nebraska* | 388 |
| Pat McAfee, *West Virginia* | 384 |
| Alexis Serna, *Oregon State* | 384 |
| Ron Dayne, *Wisconsin* | 378 |
| Alex Trlica, *Texas Tech* | 377 |
| Marshall Faulk, *San Diego State* | 376 |
| Xavier Beitia, *Florida State* | 375 |
| Eric Crouch, *Nebraska* | 374 |
| Shayne Graham, *Virginia Tech* | 371 |
| Jeff Hall, *Tennessee* | 371 |
| Justin Ayat, *Hawaii* | 370 |
| Steve Azar, *Northern Illinois* | 370 |
| Colt David, *LSU* | 369 |
| Stephen Gostkowski, *Memphis* | 369 |
| Jeff Chandler, *Florida* | 368 |
| Luis Zendejas, *Arizona State* | 368 |
| DeAngelo Williams, *Memphis* | 362 |
| Jeff Wolfert, *Missouri* | 362 |
| Brett Jaekle, *Nevada* | 361 |
| Shaun Suisham, *Bowling Green* | 361 |
| Jarett Dillard, *Rice* | 360 |
| Nate Kaeding, *Iowa* | 360 |
| Dwone Hicks, *Middle Tennessee* | 358 |
| Jeff Jaeger, *Washington* | 358 |
| Dusty Mangum, *Texas* | 358 |
| Justin Medlock, *UCLA* | 357 |
| Tony Dorsett, *Pittsburgh* | 356 |
| Ian Johnson, *Boise State* | 356 |
| DonTrell Moore, *New Mexico* | 356 |
| Glenn Davis, *Army* | 354 |
| Garrett Rivas, *Michigan* | 354 |
| Kevin Butler, *Georgia* | 353 |
| John Lee, *UCLA* | 353 |
| Max Zendejas, *Arizona* | 353 |
| Derek Mahoney, *Fresno State* | 351 |
| Martin Gramatica, *Kansas State* | 349 |
| Nick Calaycay, *Boise State* | 348 |
| Ken Simonton, *Oregon State* | 346 |
| Garrett Wolfe, *Northern Illinois* | 344 |
| Troy Edwards, *Louisiana Tech* | 342 |
| LenDale White, *USC* | 342 |
| Art Luppino, *Arizona* | 337 |
| Sam Swank, *Wake Forest* | 337 |
| Chris Lemon, *Nevada* | 336 |
| Steve Owens, *Oklahoma* | 336 |
| Lee Suggs, *Virginia Tech* | 336 |
| Dan Kelly, *Hawaii* | 335 |
| Chris Nendick, *Northern Illinois* | 332 |
| Steve Slaton, *West Virginia* | 330 |
| Wilford White, *Arizona State* | 327 |
| Skip Hicks, *UCLA* | 324 |
| Barry Sanders, *Oklahoma State* | 324 |
| Kory Sheets, *Purdue* | 324 |
| LaDainian Tomlinson, *TCU* | 324 |

### Knocking on the door
*(active career leaders)*

| | |
|---|---|
| BRETT SWENSON, *Michigan State* | 276 |
| TIM TEBOW, *Florida* | 258 |

TOP TO BOTTOM: MARGARET BOWLES / CAL SSPORT MEDIA; BRETT HANSBAUER / US PRESSWIRE

## TOUCHDOWN PASSES

| | |
|---|---|
| Graham Harrell, *Texas Tech* | 134 |
| Colt Brennan, *Hawaii* | 131 |
| Ty Detmer, *BYU* | 121 |
| Timmy Chang, *Hawaii* | 117 |
| Tim Rattay, *Louisiana Tech* | 115 |
| Danny Wuerffel, *Florida* | 114 |
| Chase Daniel, *Missouri* | 101 |
| Chad Pennington, *Marshall* | 100 |
| Chase Clement, *Rice* | 99 |
| Matt Leinart, *USC* | 99 |
| Kliff Kingsbury, *Texas Tech* | 95 |
| Brady Quinn, *Notre Dame* | 95 |
| Philip Rivers, *N.C. State* | 95 |
| David Klingler, *Houston* | 91 |
| Byron Leftwich, *Marshall* | 89 |
| Peyton Manning, *Tennessee* | 89 |
| Chris Leak, *Florida* | 88 |
| Jordan Palmer, *UTEP* | 88 |
| Chad Henne, *Michigan* | 87 |
| Troy Kopp, *Pacific* | 87 |
| Tim Lester, *Western Michigan* | 87 |
| Luke McCown, *Louisiana Tech* | 87 |
| SAM BRADFORD, *Oklahoma* | 86 |
| Ken Dorsey, *Miami (Fla.)* | 86 |
| Bruce Gradkowski, *Tulane* | 85 |
| Chase Holbrook, *New Mexico State* | 85 |
| Kevin Kolb, *Houston* | 85 |
| COLT McCOY, *Texas* | 85 |
| Andrew Walter, *Arizona State* | 85 |
| Jim McMahon, *BYU* | 84 |
| Paul Pinegar, *Fresno State* | 84 |
| Chris Redman, *Louisville* | 84 |
| Ben Roethlisberger, *Miami (Ohio)* | 84 |
| Paul Smith, *Tulsa* | 83 |
| Ryan Dinwiddie, *Boise State* | 82 |
| Ryan Schneider, *Central Florida* | 82 |
| Joe Adams, *Tennessee State* | 81 |
| Drew Brees, *Purdue* | 81 |
| Rudy Carpenter, *Arizona State* | 81 |
| Eli Manning, *Ole Miss* | 81 |
| Jason White, *Oklahoma* | 81 |
| Danny Wimprine, *Memphis* | 81 |

### Knocking on the door
*(active career leaders)*

| | |
|---|---|
| TIM HILLER, *Western Michigan* | 76 |
| DAN LeFEVOUR, *Central Michigan* | 74 |
| TODD REESING, *Kansas* | 68 |

## RUSHING YARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| Ron Dayne, *Wisconsin* | 6,397 |
| Ricky Williams, *Texas* | 6,279 |
| Tony Dorsett, *Pittsburgh* | 6,082 |
| DeAngelo Williams, *Memphis* | 6,026 |
| Charles White, *USC* | 5,598 |
| Travis Prentice, *Miami (Ohio)* | 5,596 |
| Cedric Benson, *Texas* | 5,540 |
| LaDainian Tomlinson, *TCU* | 5,263 |
| Herschel Walker, *Georgia* | 5,259 |
| Archie Griffin, *Ohio State* | 5,177 |
| Avon Cobourne, *West Virginia* | 5,164 |
| Garrett Wolfe, *Northern Illinois* | 5,164 |
| Mike Hart, *Michigan* | 5,040 |
| Darren Lewis, *Texas A&M* | 5,012 |
| Darren Sproles, *Kansas State* | 4,979 |
| DonTrell Moore, *New Mexico* | 4,973 |
| Anthony Thompson, *Indiana* | 4,965 |
| George Rogers, *South Carolina* | 4,958 |
| Trevor Cobb, *Rice* | 4,948 |
| Michael Turner, *Northern Illinois* | 4,941 |
| Ray Rice, *Rutgers* | 4,926 |
| Paul Palmer, *Temple* | 4,895 |
| Steve Bartalo, *Colorado State* | 4,813 |
| Ken Simonton, *Oregon State* | 4,802 |
| Mike Rozier, *Nebraska* | 4,780 |
| Ed Marinaro, *Cornell* | 4,715 |
| Denvis Manns, *New Mexico State* | 4,692 |

## RUSHING YARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| Marcus Allen, *USC* | 4,682 |
| Kevin Smith, *Central Florida* | 4,679 |
| Anthony Davis, *Wisconsin* | 4,676 |

### Knocking on the door
*(active career leaders)*

| | |
|---|---|
| DAMION FLETCHER, *Southern Miss* | 4,287 |
| EUGENE JARVIS, *Kent State* | 3,268 |
| REGGIE ARNOLD, *Arkansas State* | 3,210 |

## RECEIVING YARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| Trevor Insley, *Nevada* | 5,005 |
| Marcus Harris, *Wyoming* | 4,518 |
| Rashaun Woods, *Oklahoma State* | 4,414 |
| Ryan Yarborough, *Wyoming* | 4,357 |
| Troy Edwards, *Louisiana Tech* | 4,352 |
| Aaron Turner, *Pacific* | 4,345 |
| Terance Mathis, *New Mexico* | 4,254 |
| Geoff Noisy, *Nevada* | 4,249 |
| Jarett Dillard, *Rice* | 4,138 |
| Darius Watts, *Marshall* | 4,031 |
| Troy Walters, *Stanford* | 3,986 |
| Derek Hagan, *Arizona State* | 3,939 |
| Mike Hass, *Oregon State* | 3,924 |
| Jason Rivers, *Hawaii* | 3,919 |
| Josh Davis, *Marshall* | 3,889 |
| Roy Williams, *Texas* | 3,866 |
| Chad Mackey, *Louisiana Tech* | 3,789 |
| Vincent Marshall, *Houston* | 3,770 |
| Marc Zeno, *Tulane* | 3,725 |
| Brandon Stokley, *Lousiana-Lafayette* | 3,702 |
| Ryne Robinson, *Miami (Ohio)* | 3,697 |
| Arnold Jackson, *Louisville* | 3,670 |
| David Anderson, *Colorado State* | 3,634 |
| Jovon Bouknight, *Wyoming* | 3,626 |
| John Standeford, *Purdue* | 3,618 |
| Davone Bess, *Hawaii* | 3,610 |
| Steve Neal, *Western Michigan* | 3,599 |
| Ron Sellers, *Florida State* | 3,598 |
| J.R. Tolver, *San Diego State* | 3,572 |
| James Newsom, *Oregon State* | 3,558 |
| Chris Williams, *New Mexico State* | 3,555 |
| Dorien Bryant, *Purdue* | 3,548 |

### Knocking on the door
*(active career leaders)*

| | |
|---|---|
| BRYAN ANDERSON, *Central Michigan* | 2,864 |
| RYAN WOLFE, *UNLV* | 2,735 |

## INTERCEPTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Al Brosky, *Illinois* | 29 |
| Martin Bayless, *Bowling Green* | 27 |
| John Provost, *Holy Cross* | 27 |
| Tom Curtis, *Michigan* | 25 |
| Tracy Saul, *Texas Tech* | 25 |
| Tony Thurman, *Boston College* | 25 |
| Jeff Nixon, *Richmond* | 23 |
| Bennie Blades, *Miami (Fla.)* | 22 |
| Jim Bolding, *East Carolina* | 22 |
| Terrell Buckley, *Florida State* | 21 |
| Chuck Cecil, *Arizona* | 21 |
| Jamar Fletcher, *Wisconsin* | 21 |
| Barry Hill, *Iowa State* | 21 |
| Jim Leonhard, *Wisconsin* | 21 |
| Mike Sensibaugh, *Ohio State* | 21 |
| Alphonso Smith, *Wake Forest* | 21 |
| Dave Atkinson, *BYU* | 20 |
| Lynn Chandnois, *Michigan State* | 20 |
| Mark Collins, *Cal State Fullerton* | 20 |
| Charles Jefferson, *McNeese State* | 20 |
| Mitch Meeuwsen, *Oregon State* | 20 |
| Artimus Parker, *USC* | 20 |
| Kevin Smith, *Texas A&M* | 20 |
| Jackie Wallace, *Arizona* | 20 |
| Chris Williams, *LSU* | 20 |
| Bobby Wilson, *Ole Miss* | 20 |
| Tom Wilson, *Colgate* | 20 |
| Anthony Young, *Temple* | 20 |

### Knocking on the door
*(active career leaders)*

| | |
|---|---|
| GREG JAMES, *Louisiana-Monroe* | 13 |
| ERIC BERRY, *Tennessee* | 12 |
| WALTER THURMOND III, *Oregon* | 11 |

## RECEPTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Taylor Stubblefield, *Purdue* | 316 |
| Josh Davis, *Marshall* | 306 |
| Taurean Henderson, *Texas Tech* | 303 |
| Arnold Jackson, *Louisville* | 300 |
| Trevor Insley, *Nevada* | 298 |
| Geoff Noisy, *Nevada* | 295 |

## RECEPTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Rashaun Woods, *Oklahoma State* | 293 |
| Davone Bess, *Hawaii* | 293 |
| Dorien Bryant, *Purdue* | 292 |
| Jarett Dillard, *Rice* | 292 |
| Jason Rivers, *Hawaii* | 292 |
| Troy Edwards, *Louisiana Tech* | 280 |
| Vincent Marshall, *Houston* | 272 |
| Darius Watts, *Marshall* | 272 |
| A.J. Harris, *New Mexico State* | 269 |
| Aaron Turner, *Pacific* | 266 |
| Chad Mackey, *Louisiana Tech* | 264 |
| Terance Mathis, *New Mexico* | 263 |
| Mark Templeton, *Long Beach State* | 262 |
| J.R. Tolver, *San Diego State* | 262 |
| Howard Twilley, *Tulsa* | 261 |
| Jamarko Simmons, *Western Michigan* | 260 |
| Marcus Harris, *Wyoming* | 259 |
| Michael Thomas, *Arizona* | 259 |
| Wes Welker, *Texas Tech* | 259 |
| Derek Hagan, *Arizona State* | 258 |
| Ryne Robinson, *Miami (Ohio)* | 258 |
| Braylon Edwards, *Michigan* | 252 |
| Jovon Bouknight, *Wyoming* | 250 |
| John Standeford, *Purdue* | 249 |
| Nate Burleson, *Nevada* | 248 |
| Eric Deslauriers, *Eastern Michigan* | 248 |
| Chase Coffman, *Missouri* | 247 |
| James Jordan, *Louisiana Tech* | 246 |
| Chris Williams, *New Mexico State* | 246 |
| David Williams, *Illinois* | 245 |

### Knocking on the door
*(active career leaders)*

| | |
|---|---|
| BRYAN ANDERSON, *Central Michigan* | 226 |
| RYAN WOLFE, *UNLV* | 209 |
| NAAMAN ROOSEVELT, *Buffalo* | 198 |

▶ ERIC BERRY
TENNESSEE
12 INTERCEPTIONS

▶ DAN LeFEVOUR
CENTRAL MICHIGAN
74 TOUCHDOWN PASSES

(L TO R): DON MCPEAK / US PRESSWIRE; LEON HALIP / US PRESSWIRE

# Best season ... ever?

**By Matt Hayes,** *Sporting News*

Brace yourselves. This season could be like no other.

Over the next several months, we could witness the greatest player in the history of college football, one of the all-time dynasties in the game's history and only the second two-time winner of the Heisman Trophy. All from one team.

Not to throw any pressure on Tim Tebow and the Florida Gators.

"We have a chance to do something very special," Florida linebacker Brandon Spikes says.

And here's the best part: The Gators aren't alone.

Oklahoma has played in three of the last six BCS National Championship games, losing all three. The Sooners could win it all this fall and stop a five-game losing streak in BCS bowls. And quarterback Sam Bradford, like Tebow, could become just the second player to win a second Heisman.

Texas, jilted last fall by the confounding BCS ratings, can take it out on the Sooners in the Red River Rivalry and shake up the national title race in the process. LSU, like Florida, can become the first team to win three BCS national championships in the series era, and Ole Miss—yep, *Ole Miss*—is a legitimate national title contender.

"There's a buzz around here that these players haven't felt in a long time," Ole Miss coach Houston Nutt says.

It's not just in Oxford, Miss. It's everywhere. Hold on tight, it's going to be a wild ride.

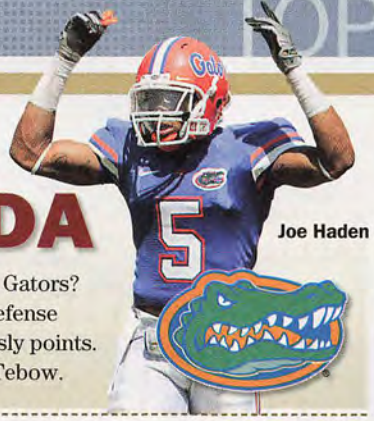
**Brandon Spikes, Florida**

**Colt McCoy, Texas**

(L TO R): TIM LARSON / ICON SMI; JAMES D. SMITH / ICON SMI

# #1 FLORIDA

What's not to like about the Gators? All 11 starters return from a defense that held Oklahoma to 14 measly points. And there's some guy named Tebow.



Joe Haden

**2 Texas** » An overlooked factor in the Longhorns' return in '09: Wide receiver Jordan Shipley's rare sixth year of eligibility gives star quarterback Colt McCoy a safe—and dangerous—option.

**3 Oklahoma** » Forget about the new offensive line protecting Bradford; if it can't run-block, the offense will sputter in big games without a running threat.

**4 USC** » Three brutal road games (Ohio State, Notre Dame and Oregon) could mean the first three-loss season since 2001, or it will set up the Trojans for another national title run.

**5 Ole Miss** » Everyone loves the suddenly surging Rebels. The key question: Can Ole Miss deal with success and stay hungry?

**"There's a buzz around here that these players haven't felt in a long time"**

—Ole Miss coach Houston Nutt

**6 Virginia Tech** » No more quarterback controversies, no more questionable coaching moves; Tyrod Taylor's time at Tech is now.

**7 Oregon** » Good luck stopping these two bruising runners: quarterback Jeremiah Masoli and running back LeGarrette Blount—a combined 456 pounds of come-and-get-it.

**8 LSU** » Look at the bright side: There's no way new quarterback Jordan Jefferson can throw a pick-six seven times in another season. Right?

**9 Ohio State** » Pencil it in: The Buckeyes, despite some rebuilding, will play in their seventh BCS bowl in the last eight years.

**10 Oklahoma State** » We give you the Big 12's latest version of Kansas (circa 2007) and Texas Tech (circa 2008): Double-digit wins, no league championship.

**11 Georgia Tech** » Anyone still scoffing at Yellow Jackets coach Paul Johnson and his funky flexbone offense? Didn't think so.

**12 Penn State** » Remember the "Joe Must Go" campaign? JoePa, version 2.0: All he does is win games.

**13 Alabama** » Nick Saban isn't happy about the Tide tanking the Sugar Bowl, and you just know someone has to pay.

**14 Boise State** » The non-BCS teams just might get an unbeaten Broncos squad to further their playoff argument.

**15 Georgia** » In another time, without Tim Tebow, Georgia could be the SEC's best team instead of hoping for BCS at-large scraps.

**16 Oregon State** » The most underrated coach (Mike Riley) and undersized tailback (Jacquizz Rogers) make the Beavers a dangerous team.

**17 Florida State** » 'Noles must move back into the ACC elite or the pain of mediocrity will stick to coach-in-waiting Jimbo Fisher.

**18 Notre Dame** » A soft schedule and more athleticism on both sides of the ball will translate to a BCS bowl.

**19 Utah** » The next trick for the BCS-buster Utes: Find a way to avoid the inevitable drop after a magical season.

**20 Texas Tech** » Meet quarterback Taylor Potts, everyone. He'll be the guy in your scorebook with 3,500 passing yards and 30-plus touchdowns.

**21 California** » If the Bears had a few more players like electrifying running back Jahvid Best, the Pac-10 could be a four-team race.

**22 BYU** » The recipe for a championship: a fifth-year senior quarterback (Max Hall) and a stout defense.

**23 North Carolina** » It's not Coral Gables just yet, but 'Heels coach Butch Davis has raised the level of talent—and expectations—at UNC.

**24 TCU** » If only the stock market were as predictable: TCU plays terrific defense, wins 10 games.

**25 Kansas** » Schedule is backloaded for the Jayhawks, who need another big season from plucky quarterback Todd Reesing to win the Big 12 North.

Jacquizz Rodgers, Oregon State

Max Hall, BYU

CLOCKWISE: SAM GREENWOOD / GETTY IMAGES; JAY DROWNS / SN (2)

# Two-time Heisman winner Griffin looking for company atop prestigious pedestal

**By Rebecca Rudolph,** *Sporting News*

In 1975, a monumental athletic achievement occurred: Ohio State running back Archie Griffin won the Heisman Trophy. Since more than 70 players have won the prestigious award, it begs the question, what's so great about this particular year?

It marked the second time the Ohio State running back won the award given to the most outstanding player in college football. Since its inception in 1935, Griffin is the only player to be honored twice.

"Winning the Heisman changes your life forever," Griffin says." I get asked about the trophy almost every day. Winning means excellence."

Though excellence in 2009 remains to be seen, Florida's Tim Tebow and Oklahoma's Sam Bradford stand out as this year's best college players, and one of them is likely to join Griffin on the minute list of two-time winners.

Last season, Tebow, the 2007 Heisman winner, threw for 2,746 yards and 30 touchdowns. If the Heisman were merely a game of numbers, Tebow would've been casually mentioned in the conversation. But it was his versatility and heroic approach to the game that so impressed voters. Without stellar numbers, the quarterback led the Gators to victories against four top-25 defenses (USC, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia), as well as a 24-14 win over Oklahoma in the BCS National Championship Game.

"We're glad Tim's on our team," Florida center Maurkice Pouncey says. "There are a lot of good players out there,

## Tale of the tape

### Tim Tebow

| PASSING | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 13 | 172.46 | 234-350-6 | 66.9 | 3286 | 32 | 252.8 |
| 2008 | 13 | 172.37 | 192-298-4 | 64.4 | 2746 | 30 | 196.1 |

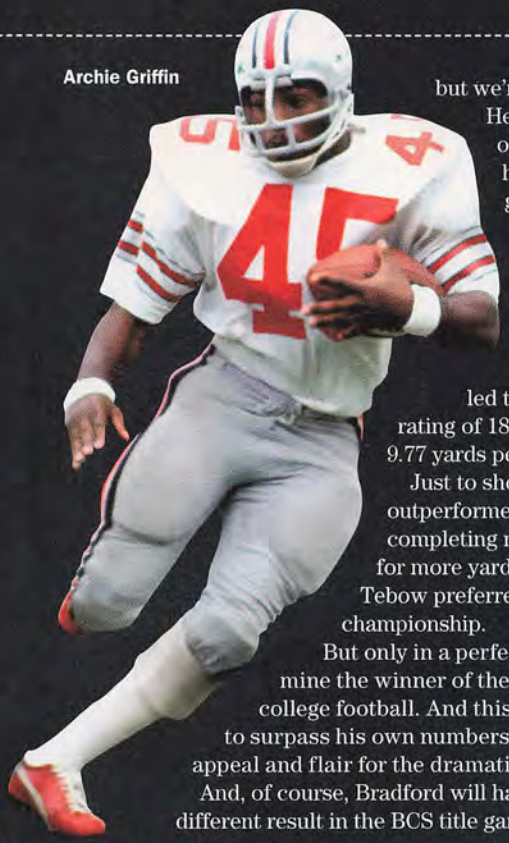
| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 13 | 210 | 895 | 4.3 | 23 | 68.8 |
| 2008 | 14 | 176 | 673 | 3.8 | 12 | 48.1 |

### Sam Bradford

| PASSING | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct | Yds | Td | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 14 | 176.53 | 237-341-8 | 69.5 | 3121 | 36 | 222.9 |
| 2008 | 14 | 180.84 | 328-483-8 | 67.9 | 4720 | 50 | 337.1 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att | Net | Avg | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2007 | 14 | 31 | 7 | 0.2 | 0 | 0.5 |
| 2008 | 14 | 42 | 47 | 1.1 | 5 | 3.4 |

PRESTON MACK FOR SN



Archie Griffin

but we're glad that he's our quarterback. He's a great player and a great leader on this team. He works hard, and he pushes everyone around him to get better every day."

Despite Tebow's considerable appeal, Bradford's numbers were too hard to ignore in 2008. The junior passed for 4,720 yards, 50 touchdowns and only eight interceptions. He also led the nation with a pass-efficiency rating of 180.8 and threw for an eye-popping 9.77 yards per completion.

Just to show it wasn't a fluke, Bradford outperformed Tebow in the title game, completing more passes (26 to Tebow's 18) for more yardage (256 to 231). Of course, Tebow preferred the resulting second national championship.

But only in a perfect world would numbers determine the winner of the most prestigious accolade in college football. And this is no Utopia. Bradford will have to surpass his own numbers to beat out Tebow's magnetic appeal and flair for the dramatic.

And, of course, Bradford will happily trade a second trophy for a different result in the BCS title game.

**"Winning the Heisman changes your life forever. I get asked about the trophy almost every day. Winning means excellence."**

—Archie Griffin

## Other Heisman Candidates to watch

**QB Jevan Snead, Jr., Ole Miss:** The Rebels are red hot, and the remarkably cool and efficient Snead will take a big jump in Year 2 as a starter.

**RB Jonathan Dwyer, Jr., Georgia Tech:** Dwyer was a load to bring down in '08 despite running behind an inexperienced line; watch what happens this time around.

**RB Kendall Hunter, Jr., Oklahoma State:** The nation's most dynamic runner and most dangerous offense—a combination that could translate to 2,000 yards.

**QB Zac Robinson, Sr., Oklahoma State:** Reggie Bush won the Heisman in 2005 despite Matt Leinart's candidacy. Why not Robinson despite Hunter?

**QB Jeremiah Masoli, Sr., Oregon:** The Tim Tebow of the West Coast: a bull of a runner and a surprisingly efficient thrower playing in a terrific system.

—Matt Hayes, *Sporting News*

## Spoiler Alert! McCoy may surprise in '09

Amid the preseason hoopla surrounding Heisman Trophy winners Tim Tebow and Sam Bradford, Texas quarterback Colt McCoy stands quietly in the proverbial Heisman corner.

But according to his teammate, roommate and friend, Texas wide receiver Jordan Shipley, McCoy knows when to talk and when to play.

"He's got a lot of confidence [in himself] and in the guys he's playing with, and any time you've got a confident guy with ability, it makes a good mix for a leader," Shipley says. "He knows when to say something and when to go out there and play."

In 2008, talk was cheap and McCoy proved he could play, racking up 3,859 passing yards and 561 rushing yards for 45 combined touchdowns. With those numbers, the senior quarterback deserved his second-place Heisman votes.

If McCoy repeats last year's efforts and has the Longhorns in the national title hunt, he could have another banner year and spoil both Tebow's and Bradford's hopes of securing a second Heisman Trophy.

Granted, there's no sneak attack involved. McCoy has kept up with the nation's best quarterbacks since he took over for Vince Young in 2006 and earned the Big 12 Freshman of the Year award. In 2007, McCoy ranked in the top 25 nationally in passing efficiency and in total offensive yards. And last year, he earned the Walter Camp Award, given to the NCAA Player of the Year.

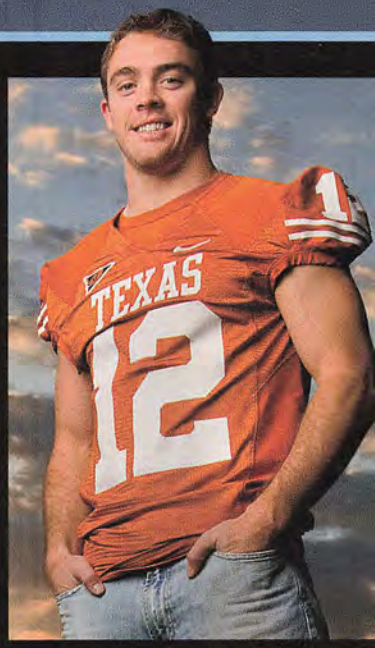
Tebow even told the *Associated Press* last season that McCoy could get his vote for the 2008 Heisman.

"[McCoy's] playing extremely well and doing a great job leading his team and handles it with a lot of class, too," said Tebow last October of his choice for the Heisman.

Tebow might not feel the same this year, as he's promised himself a better performance in '09, while he and Bradford yearn for that elusive second Heisman.

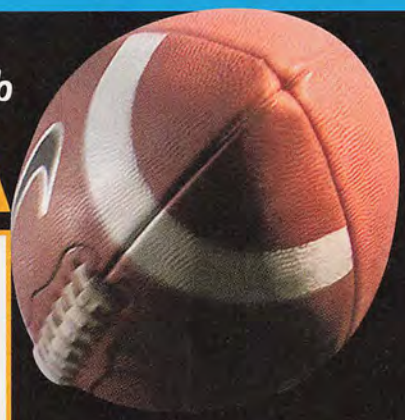
But McCoy, who's been sitting quietly in the corner, could be the wrench that ruins it for them.

— *Rebecca Rudolph*



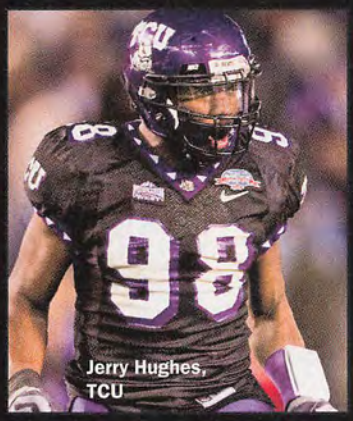

CLOCKWISE: MALCOLM EMMONS-US / PRESSWIRE; BOB LEVERONE / SN (2); JAY DROWNS / SN (3); ROBERT SEALE FOR SN

# 2009 Sporting News & Walter Camp ALL-AMERICA TEAM

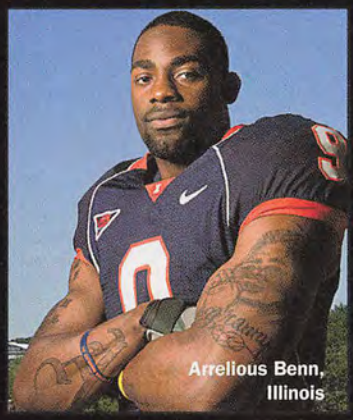


Jonathan Dwyer, Georgia Tech

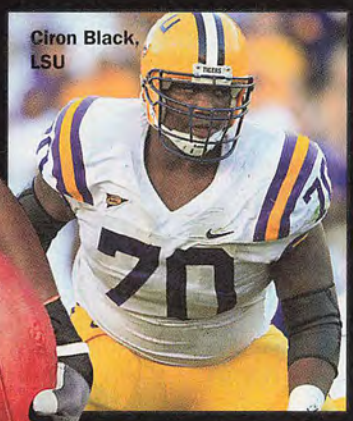
Dez Bryant, Oklahoma State




Jerry Hughes, TCU



Arrelious Benn, Illinois




Ciron Black, LSU

CLOCKWISE: BOB LEVERONE / SN; ALAN SMITH / CAL SSPORT MEDIA; FRED BARNES FOR SN; BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN; PETER G. AIKEN / US PRESSWIRE

## 1 First Team

### Offense

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | TIM TEBOW | Sr., Florida |
| RB | KENDALL HUNTER | Jr., Oklahoma State |
| RB | JONATHAN DWYER | Jr., Georgia Tech |
| WR | DEZ BRYANT | Jr., Oklahoma State |
| WR | ARRELIOUS BENN | Jr., Illinois |
| TE | JERMAINE GRESHAM | Sr., Oklahoma |
| OL | BRYAN BULAGA | Jr., Iowa |
| OL | CIRON BLACK | Sr., LSU |
| OL | RODNEY HUDSON | Jr., Florida State |
| OL | BRANDON CARTER | Sr., Texas Tech |
| OL | KRISTOFER O'DOWD | Jr., USC |
| K | KAI FORBATH | Jr., UCLA |
| KR | PERRISH COX | Sr., Oklahoma State |

### Defense

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DE | GEORGE SELVIE | Sr., USF |
| DE | JERRY HUGHES | Sr., TCU |
| DE | NDAMUKONG SUH | Sr., Nebraska |
| DE | GERALD McCOY | Jr., Oklahoma |
| LB | BRANDON SPIKES | Sr., Florida |
| LB | ROLANDO McCLAIN | Jr., Alabama |
| LB | SERGIO KINDLE | Sr., Texas |
| DB | JOE HADEN | Jr., Florida |
| DB | WALTER THURMOND | Sr., Oregon |
| DB | TAYLOR MAYS | Sr., USC |
| DB | ERIC BERRY | Jr., Tennessee |
| P | ROSS THEVENOT | Sr., Tulane |
| PR | BRANDON JAMES | Sr., Florida |

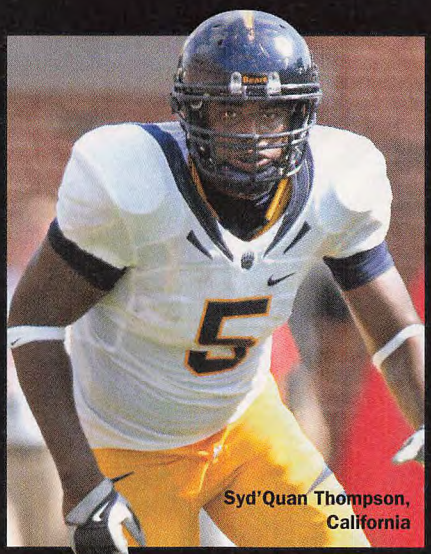
## 2 Second Team

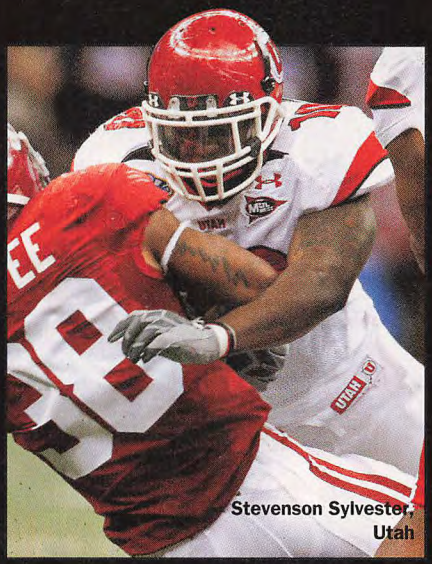
### Offense

| | |
|---|---|
| QB | Sam Bradford, Jr., Oklahoma |
| RB | Jahvid Best, Jr., California |
| RB | Evan Royster, Jr., Penn State |
| WR | Damian Williams, Jr., USC |
| WR | Jordan Shipley, Sr., Texas |
| TE | Dennis Pitta, Sr., BYU |
| OL | Russell Okung, Sr., Oklahoma State |
| OL | Trent Williams, Sr., Oklahoma |
| OL | Stefen Wisniewski, Jr., Penn State |
| OL | Mike Johnson, Sr., Alabama |
| OL | Maurkice Pouncey, Jr., Florida |
| K | Thomas Weber, Jr., Arizona State |
| KR | C.J. Spiller, Sr., Clemson |

### Defense

| | |
|---|---|
| DE | Carlos Dunlap, Jr., Florida |
| DE | Greg Hardy, Sr., Ole Miss |
| DE | Terrence Cody, Sr., Alabama |
| DE | Brian Price, Jr., UCLA |
| LB | Joe Pawelek, Sr., Baylor |
| LB | Navorro Bowman, So., Penn State |
| LB | Mark Herzlich, Sr., Boston College |
| DB | Trevard Lindley, Sr., Kentucky |
| DB | Syd'Quan Thompson, Sr., California |
| DB | Morgan Burnett, Jr., Georgia Tech |
| DB | Ahmad Black, Jr., Florida |
| P | Derek Epperson, Jr., Baylor |
| PR | Antonio Brown, Jr., Central Michigan |


Syd'Quan Thompson, California


Stevenson Sylvester, Utah

## 3 Third Team

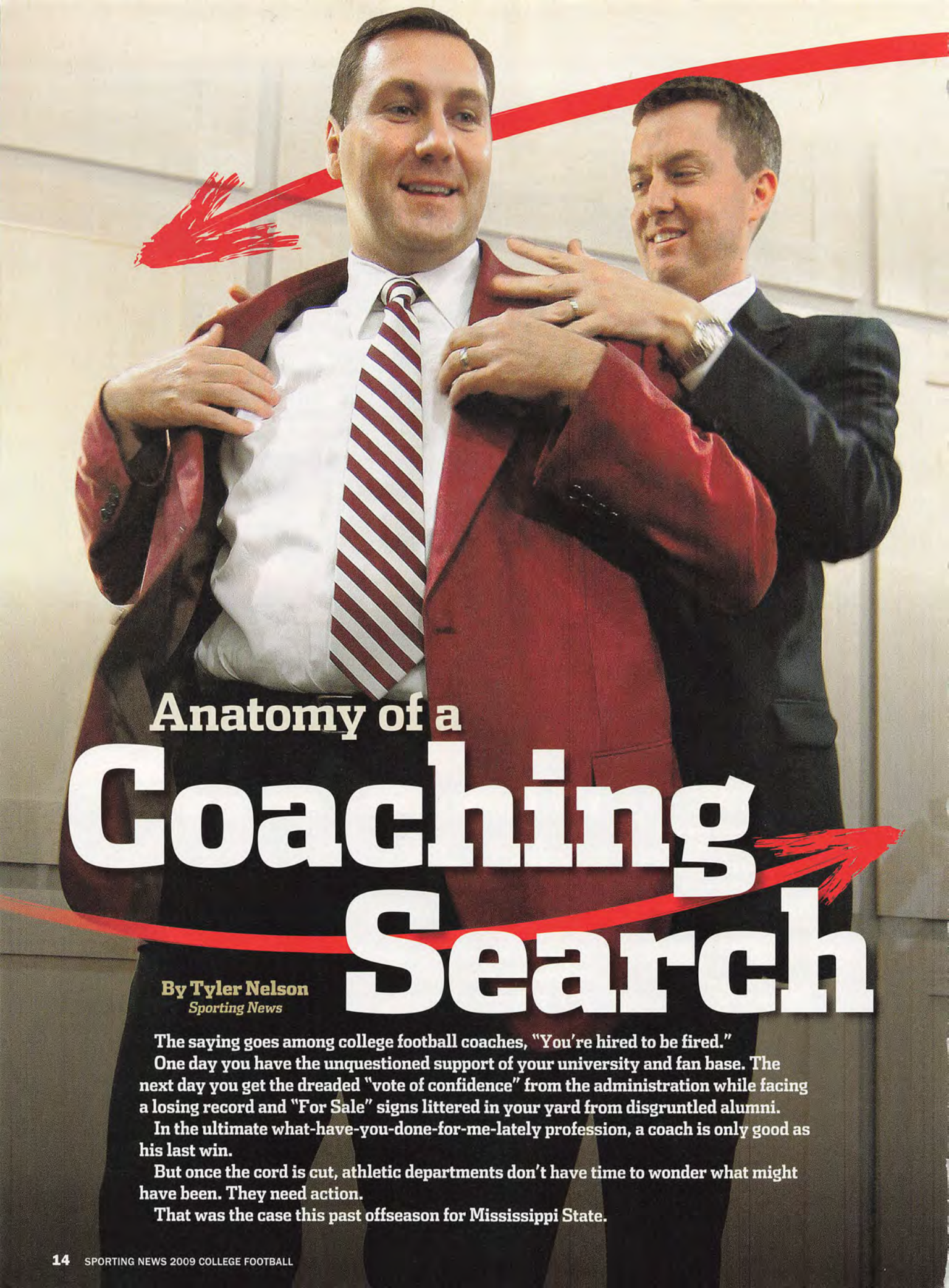
### Offense

| | |
|---|---|
| QB | Colt McCoy, Sr., Texas |
| RB | Jacquizz Rodgers, So., Oregon State |
| RB | LeGarrette Blount, Sr., Oregon |
| WR | Mardy Gilyard, Sr., Cincinnati |
| WR | Golden Tate, Jr., Notre Dame |
| TE | Aaron Hernandez, Jr., Florida |
| OL | Adam Ulatoski, Sr., Texas |
| OL | John Jerry, Sr., Ole Miss |
| OL | Jeff Byers, Sr., USC |
| OL | Eric Olsen, Sr., Notre Dame |
| OL | Josh McNeil, Sr., Tennessee |
| K | Philip Welch, So., Wisconsin |
| KR | DeMarco Murray, Jr., Oklahoma |

### Defense

| | |
|---|---|
| DE | Brandon Graham, Sr., Michigan |
| DE | Dexter Davis, Sr., Arizona State |
| DE | Jared Odrick, Sr., Penn State |
| DE | Ted Laurent, Jr., Ole Miss |
| LB | Sean Weatherspoon, Sr., Missouri |
| LB | Rennie Curran, Jr., Georgia |
| LB | Stevenson Sylvester, Sr., Utah |
| DB | Stephan Virgil, Sr., Virginia Tech |
| DB | Kyle Wilson, Sr., Boise State |
| DB | Earl Thomas, So., Texas |
| DB | Deunta Williams, Jr., North Carolina |
| P | Brad Langley, Jr., Nevada |
| PR | Javier Arenas, Sr., Alabama |

(L TO R): MITCHELL LAYTON / GETTY IMAGES; MITCH DUMKE / UNIVERSITY OF UTAH SPORTS INFORMATION



# Anatomy of a Coaching Search

By Tyler Nelson
*Sporting News*

The saying goes among college football coaches, "You're hired to be fired."

One day you have the unquestioned support of your university and fan base. The next day you get the dreaded "vote of confidence" from the administration while facing a losing record and "For Sale" signs littered in your yard from disgruntled alumni.

In the ultimate what-have-you-done-for-me-lately profession, a coach is only good as his last win.

But once the cord is cut, athletic departments don't have time to wonder what might have been. They need action.

That was the case this past offseason for Mississippi State.

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Mississippi State coach Dan Mullen tries on his new colors, helped by athletic director Greg Byrne.

Five years ago, then-Mississippi State athletic director Larry Templeton introduced coach Sylvester Croom as the new face of the Bulldogs. The program, just seasons removed from a 1998 trip to the Southeastern Conference Championship Game, needed a morale boost after only eight wins in the last three years of then-coach Jackie Sherrill's tenure. Bulldog fans embraced Croom as he promised to return the team to postseason contention "the right way," but asked his supporters to be patient due to the long work ahead of him.

After three straight years of three-win seasons and growing frustration from fans, Croom seemed to have broken through in 2007. That season, the Bulldogs won eight games, including the Liberty Bowl, and Croom was honored as the SEC Coach of the Year.

However, the team wasn't able to capitalize on its momentum the next year. An upset in the season opener against Louisiana Tech set the tone for the year, and as the team struggled to four wins, irritated fans became apathetic. The last straw came after an embarrassing loss to rival Ole Miss (45-0) on Nov. 28.

Greg Byrne, who replaced Templeton as athletic director in July of '08, spoke on the phone to Croom that night and agreed to meet in Byrne's office the next morning. At the close of the meeting, Croom handed in his letter of resignation.

"It was a tough time for him personally and the athletic department," Byrne says.

And so began the national search.

After a head coach leaves, the athletic department springs into action, hoping to get a home-run hire, given the amount of time and increased scrutiny it has.

Some teams, like Tennessee, had the benefit of extra weeks to conduct a search.

The Volunteers, far removed from their 1998 national championship, muddled through the last few seasons under coach Philip Fulmer. Since the championship season, Tennessee has gone 20-28 against Top 25 opponents, as opposed to 23-9 from 1992 (when Fulmer became the coach) to 1998.

Following a humbling 27-6 loss to South Carolina on Nov. 1, Tennessee was on the way to its second losing season in the past four years. The glory days were over and athletic director Mike Hamilton opted for a change.

"Our Tennessee family is united in its goals, but divided in the right path to get there," said a teary-eyed Fulmer at his farewell press conference on Nov. 4. "I love Tennessee too much to let her stay divided."

"It was gut-wrenching," says Hamilton of Fulmer's departure. "But we felt it was the best thing to do for our program and institution."

The early move gave the Vols additional time to research candidates and, most importantly, announce to potential suitors that Tennessee was hiring.

During a coaching search, athletic departments hunker down to find the best possible candidate to lead their franchise, but sometimes they get a little help from the outside.

A trend has developed in the hiring of search firms to assist in the undertaking, like Neinas Sports Services or Parker Executive Search. They play the role of middle men by discreetly contacting clients, figuring out logistics, etc. Though the move is criticized by fans and media for spending the department's dollars unwisely, athletic directors argue they are beneficial.

"One role of a search firm is to gauge interest," says Washington athletic director Scott Woodward, who hired Parker Executive Search to help contact current Huskies coach Steve Sarkisian. "They help you go through the courting stages, like in a relationship—first there's conversations, then holding hands and finally you get that kiss. You just want to make sure there is mutual interest."

"It was gut-wrenching," Hamilton says of Fulmer's departure. "But we felt it was the best thing to do for our program and institution."

While the search firms play the role of a "Do you like me? Check yes or no" note, they also assume the role of mediator so there won't be a bad breakup.

"We had potential candidates with Auburn ties and [the search firm] helped take the emotion out of it because I knew the three personally," recalls Auburn athletic director Jay Jacobs, who hired consultant Chuck Neinas to help in his search. "It allowed for straight, honest communications."

The consensus among athletic directors for utilizing outside help is their secret. The firms, known for being tight-lipped, kept the flow of information from leaking.

"I didn't want to compromise our search," says Byrne, who also hired Neinas.

It worked so well that Byrne's stealth-like maneuvering led interim Mississippi State president Roy Ruby to say he had a career in the Secret Service waiting for him, and members of a message board to donned him "The Ninja."

The saying goes among college football coaches, **"YOU'RE HIRED TO BE FIRED."**

Besides trying to lure potential candidates, there are other variables an athletic director must navigate.

Despite the current economic climate, college football remains a big business. Yes, some programs had to tighten their purse strings, and even though Alabama hired Nick Saban in 2007 well before the current economic downturn, it gave substance to the adage, "To make money, you have to spend money."

This past year, *Forbes* called Saban "The Most Powerful Coach in Sports" and pointed out that the year of his hire, the Crimson Tide football program had a $54 million revenue with an estimated $32 million profit.

At Tennessee, it is no different. The Volunteers will pay their football coaches around $5.3 million in 2009 (with Lane Kiffin set to make $2 million) in hopes of a financial windfall—and, of course, national championships.

OPPOSITE PAGE: V. SOLIS / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS
WADE PAYNE / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

## BACKGROUND

Nov. 28, 2008 – Mississippi State loses 45-0 to Ole Miss.

Nov. 29 – Sylvester Croom resigns as coach. Athletic director Greg Byrne hires sports consultant Chuck Neinas and begins to discuss candidates.

Nov. 30 – Staff meets again about candidates.

## BYRNE'S TIMELINE

**A** **Dec. 1 (Mon.)** – Drove to Tupelo, Miss., for first interview.

**B** **Dec. 2 (Tues.)** – Drove back to Starkville, helped the staff research and conduct background checks on candidates.

**C** **Dec. 3 (Wed.)** – Flew from Starkville to Atlanta.

**D** **Dec. 4 (Thur.)** – Interviewed candidates in Atlanta throughout the day.

**E** **Dec. 5 (Fri.)** – Flew from Atlanta to Kansas City.

**F** **Dec. 6 (Sat.)** – Flew from Kansas City to Starkville. Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley and coach Urban Meyer approach Gators assistant Dan Mullen about Mississippi State's interest in him.

**G** **Dec. 7 (Sun.)** – Conducted phone interviews in Starkville; later drove to Tupelo for another interview.

**H** **Dec. 8 (Mon.)** – Flew to Dallas and returned back to Starkville.

**I** **Dec. 9 (Tues.)** – Drove to Tuscaloosa and later flew to Atlanta to meet with Mullen.

**J** **Dec. 10 (Wed)** – Offered the job to Mullen. Flew from Atlanta to Starkville, where Mullen was officially introduced at a press conference the next day.

# Ramblin' Man

*When coach Sylvester Croom resigned a day after Mississippi State's season was over, athletic director Greg Byrne didn't have any time to waste. With the help of Neinas Sports Services, Byrne, associate athletic director Scott Stricklin and a small staff researched and vetted candidates. Byrne even enlisted the advice of coaching heavyweights Jim Tressel, Mike Bellotti and Rich Rodriguez. Though Byrne couldn't mention whom he interviewed for privacy reasons, here is his 13-day itinerary during the search:*

"Football is the engine that is driving the train," Hamilton says. "You want to invest in your core business."

It can be much different at a smaller program. Take New Mexico State, for example. After another dreadful year under Hal Mumme, Aggies athletic director McKinley Boston decided to change the direction of a program that hadn't made a bowl game since 1960. But the bottom line was also a factor. Boston noted the lagging attendance, low corporate support and the fact that the recent 10-year business model for athletics depended on a profitable team.

The resources at New Mexico State are a far cry from the days when he served as the athletic director for Minnesota in the early 1990s. Boston noted that Mumme's $385,000 buyout was a big obstacle.

"When I was at Minnesota, that wouldn't have been a problem," Boston says.

Prior to luring promising UCLA assistant DeWayne Walker to Las Cruces, Boston needed a financial plan.

"Before we met with the candidates, we set parameters based on experience. Instead of negotiations, I was up front with everyone with what the salary was going to be," he says.

As Byrne prepared for his search, he was confident money wasn't going to be an issue, even after reportedly honoring Croom's $3 million buyout clause.

"We have a very loyal fan base and I felt we could put together a nice package for any candidate," Byrne remembers. "We weren't about to have our hands tied behind our backs."

Athletic directors deal with more than coaches in their quest for successful programs. Media, in all of its forms, has also taken center stage.

In an information age propped up by a culture of instant gratification, rumor becomes fact in a matter of minutes. Fans posting to online message boards are not only allowed to spread innuendo, but they're encouraged. And if a legitimate news organization runs with it—watch out. The suspense is one of the main draws under the big top known as the coaching carousel.

Shortly after the firing of Ron Prince in early November, a Kansas State fan Web site reported that TCU's Gary Patterson would return to his alma mater to coach the Wildcats. Patterson killed the intense speculation when he told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* he wasn't interested.

"I'm not real happy with people who fire people before the season is over," Patterson says. "And I would be less happy with anybody who would ever talk about taking another job until they finish their own."

Bill Snyder eventually came out of retirement to return to the Kansas State sidelines.

During the Syracuse search, the NFL Network reported East Carolina's Skip Holtz would replace Greg Robinson as the team's next coach. Holtz later called the story "inaccurate" and the Orange ended up hiring Doug Marrone.

On Dec. 5., misinformation on

COURTESY DARREN PHILLIPS

**Before hiring DeWayne Walker (right), New Mexico State made sure to have a budgetary plan.**

a Michigan State fan Web site caused a firestorm in the Mississippi State search. The site reported the Bulldogs would soon land one of the most prominent up-and-coming coaches in the nation—Boise State's Chris Petersen.

Once the dots were connected, it made sense. Byrne and Petersen worked together at Oregon during the mid-90s and, thanks to similar interests and backgrounds, the two struck up a friendship that has continued to this day.

Soon, message boards and sports talk radio from Starkville to Boise felt the reverberations. Local television stations even interrupted programming to report the happenings.

It got so out of hand, Byrne decided to call Petersen about the firestorm.

"I got to put something out," Petersen says.

Hours later, Petersen released a statement explaining he was not offered the position nor would he take it despite his respect for Byrne.

Byrne explained that he did speak to Petersen—as he did with many other prominent coaches—but just on advice about whom to consider.

"I knew he wasn't going to leave Boise," Byrne says. "Our industry as a whole acts like [the message boards] don't exist, but they aren't going away. That's why you have to stay on the front end of communication."

Following the flap, Byrne continued to crisscross to different locales via private plane—courtesy of a donor so the flight path would be harder to track—to interview candidates.

One of the candidates Byrne expressed interest in was Florida offensive coordinator Dan Mullen. The 36-year-old had the traits Byrne viewed as necessary for program: an innovator on offense, a proven recruiter with boundless energy and SEC battle-tested.

Under coach Urban Meyer, Mullen was credited for constructing a potent spread offense at Bowling Green, Utah and Florida that gave defenses fits. He has tutored No. 1 NFL draft pick Alex Smith and 2007 Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow.

Despite not knowing he was coveted, Mullen began assembling index cards the week of the SEC Championship Game just in case a school came calling.

"I just wanted to be prepared," he says.

After he was done breaking down film of the Alabama defense, Mullen, who hadn't interviewed for a job since landing a graduate assistantship with Syracuse in 1998, scoured his notebook for bullet points. The notebook had things he's picked up from being an assistant coach, like how he'd run a spring practice, handle academics, etc.

After Byrne expressed interest in meeting with Mullen, Florida athletic director Jeremey Foley requested he not be approached until after the SEC Championship game on Dec. 6. After the Gators beat Alabama, Foley and Meyer informed Mullen of Mississippi State's interest in him.

After a day of not hearing anything and researching Mississippi State, Mullen went about his normal routine and traveled to meet a few potential recruits for Florida.

"The area of Jacksonville I was in didn't have very good cell reception," Mullen says. "When I turned my phone back on after leaving the school, I had two messages. The first was Florida telling me coach Meyer was going to be out and I needed to get back to run practice. The second was asking if I'd call Greg Byrne back."

Mullen called his wife, who was seven months pregnant at the time, and asked her to get everything in line as he prepared for practice. In a matter of hours, she booked Mullen a flight from Gainesville to Atlanta, finished preparing and organizing his notes and prepared a suit for him.

On Dec. 10, Mullen caught his flight to Atlanta, where he met Byrne for the first time. The two got together around 9 p.m. and exchanged pleasantries, and small talk quickly turned to football discussions.

Then Byrne peppered him with almost every scenario a college coach would face.

"We went from A to Z. We talked about everything from academics to zone defense," Byrne says. "I could tell he had a good grasp on what he was doing; he was very smart. Within 30 minutes, I knew this was our guy."

The two eventually parted ways at 3:30 a.m. Just minutes after he arrived in his room, Mullen received a call from Byrne.

"Would you mind meeting at 7 a.m.?" Byrne asked.

"I immediately called my wife to tell her the news and to make sure she was on board," Mullen says. "Being a college coach is very nerve-racking, and we had to be 100-percent committed to this venture. Luckily, we were both excited about the opportunity."

It didn't take long for Mississippi State fans to show their enthusiasm over Byrne's hiring of Mullen.

After two hours of sleep, the two met again and Byrne officially offered him the job. Mullen accepted it. Later that day, the two were in Starkville.

"I want to build a winning program the fans will be proud of," Mullen says. "With just the talent alone in this state, I certainly think we can get back to Atlanta (SEC Championship Game)."

On Dec. 11, Mullen, at a price of $1.2 million a year, was formally introduced to a raucous crowd in the brand-new Templeton Athletic Academic Center.

Byrne helped a grinning Mullen put on a maroon blazer. The screaming Bulldog faithful rang their cowbells with approval and optimism filled every inch of the room.

It was the last day he'd relax.

JIM LYTLE / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

# ACC

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

## ATLANTIC

1 Florida State
2 N.C. State
3 Wake Forest
4 Clemson
5 Maryland
6 Boston College

## COASTAL

1 Virginia Tech
2 Georgia Tech
3 North Carolina
4 Miami
5 Virginia
6 Duke

## RATING THE PLAYERS

**Fastest Receiver**
Jacoby Ford, Clemson

**Best Hands**
Rich Gunnell, WR, Boston College

**Best Passing QB**
Riley Skinner, Wake Forest

**Best Running QB**
Josh Nesbitt, Georgia Tech

**Most Elusive RB**
C.J. Spiller, Clemson

**Best Instincts**
Mark Herzlich, LB, Boston College

**Best Athlete**
Greg Boone, TE, Virginia Tech

**Best Under Pressure**
Russell Wilson, QB, N.C. State

**Top NFL Prospect**
Jonathan Dwyer, RB, Georgia Tech

**Top Impact Freshman**
Ray Ray Armstrong, S, Miami

**Hardest Hitter**
Nate Irving, LB, N.C. State

**Biggest Underachiever**
Mikell Simpson, RB, Virginia

**Best Home-Field Advantage**
Clemson

**Best Fans**
Clemson

**Best Mascot**
Buzz, Georgia Tech

**Best Stadium**
Dolphin Stadium, Miami

# Overwhelming balance will mean no national contender for another year

**By Dan Collins,** *Winston-Salem Journal* (ACC Atlantic previews) and **Ken Tysiac,** *Charlotte Observer* (ACC Coastal previews)

The conference-wide importance of Virginia Tech's 20-7 defeat of Cincinnati in the 2009 Orange Bowl wasn't lost on the Hokie players.

"It was great to get that win for the ACC, and also for us, having a long drought," says Virginia Tech cornerback Stephan Virgil.

Winning the Orange Bowl helped the ACC establish some credibility and head into this season with momentum, as the Hokies broke the ACC's eight-game losing streak in BCS games.

They helped the ACC finish with a 4-6 mark while competing in an NCAA-record 10 bowl games after going 3-1 against the SEC in the final week of the regular season. The respectable finish salvaged a season that started ugly when Virginia Tech lost to East Carolina; SEC schools Alabama and South Carolina pummeled Clemson and N.C. State, respectively; and USC crushed Virginia.

But, as it begins its fifth season since expanding to 12 schools, the ACC still has a long way to go before it's considered a powerhouse conference.

Though ACC coaches tout the conference's balance, it hasn't had a team contend for the national championship since Florida State lost to Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 3, 2001.

Here's what is on tap:

•Virginia Tech and Georgia Tech appear to be the favorites in the Coastal Division, with Florida State and N.C. State the best of a struggling bunch in the Atlantic.

•The ACC Championship Game is set for a second season in Tampa, where attendance was dismal for Virginia Tech and Boston College last year. Charlotte, located near the center of the conference, gets a two-year crack at the title game beginning in 2010.

•An opening-week schedule that includes N.C. State at home against South Carolina, Virginia Tech versus Alabama in Atlanta and Maryland at California offers an opportunity for the ACC to win some big games.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Mike Farrell, *Rivals.com*

**1. FLORIDA STATE** Defensive tackle Jacobbi McDaniel and defensive back Greg Reid are five-star talents.
**2. NORTH CAROLINA** Butch Davis once again proved he is one of the top recruiters in the nation.
**3. MIAMI** The Hurricanes didn't need a big class, so they are only bringing in 19 prospects.
**4. VIRGINIA TECH** There is plenty of incoming talent at running back and across the board on defense for the Hokies.
**5. MARYLAND** D.J. Adams and Caleb Porzel are a pair of four-star running backs who should see early time.
**6. VIRGINIA** This is another solid class for Al Groh.
**7. CLEMSON** The quality is extremely high from top to bottom, with quarterback Tajh Boyd leading the way offensively.
**8. GEORGIA TECH** Jordan Luallen and talented athlete David Sims should push for early time at quarterback.
**9. DUKE** The Blue Devils have perhaps the most surprising class in the league.
**10. NC STATE** Tom O'Brien's staff did a nice job landing defensive back Jarvis Byrd out of Florida.
**11. WAKE FOREST** The Demon Deacons again hit the Sunshine State hard, signing six talented prospects from Florida.
**12. BOSTON COLLEGE** Linebackers Andre Lawrence and Luke Kuechly are talented playmakers and defensive tackle Dillon Quinn will play early.

## ASCENDING

**N.C. STATE** Russell Wilson and Mike Glennon give the Wolfpack two excellent young quarterbacks. Five seniors plus hard-hitting junior Nate Irving make for a stout defensive front seven.

## DESCENDING

**BOSTON COLLEGE** Frank Spaziani is the Eagles' third head coach in four years after Jeff Jagodzinski's bizarre departure. Lack of continuity and a shaky quarterback situation foretells a weakened team.

## ALL-ACC

### OFFENSE

QB Russell Wilson, So., N.C. State
RB Jonathan Dwyer, Jr., Georgia Tech
RB C.J. Spiller, Sr., Clemson
OL Ed Wang, Sr., Virginia Tech
OL Rodney Hudson, Jr., Florida State
OL Matt Tennant, Sr., Boston College
OL Thomas Austin, Sr., Clemson
OL Jason Fox, Sr., Miami
TE Greg Boone, Sr., Virginia Tech
WR Rich Gunnell, Sr., Boston College
WR Jacoby Ford, Sr., Clemson

### DEFENSE

DL Derrick Morgan, Jr., Georgia Tech
DL Boo Robinson, Sr., Wake Forest
DL Vince Oghobaase, Sr., Duke
DL Jason Worilds, Jr., Virginia Tech
LB Mark Herzlich, Sr., Boston College
LB Nate Irving, Jr., N.C. State
LB Alex Wujciak, Jr., Maryland
DB Ras-I Dowling, Jr., Virginia
DB Stephan Virgil, Sr., Virginia Tech
DB Morgan Burnett, Jr., Georgia Tech
DB Deunta Williams, Jr., North Carolina

### SPECIALISTS

K Travis Baltz, Jr., Maryland
P Matt Bosher, Jr., Miami

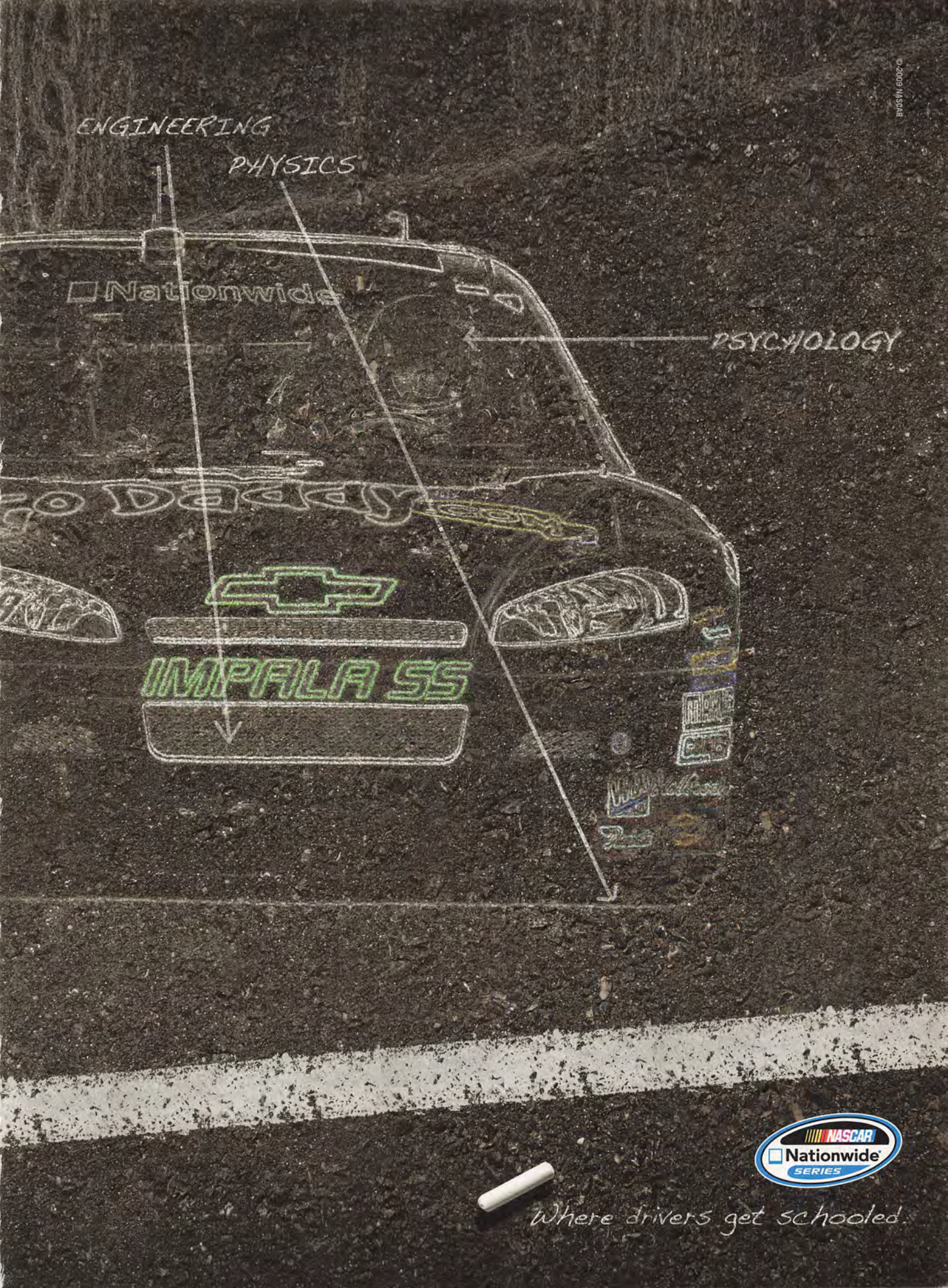
## FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

**1** Bobby Bowden will retire at the end of the 2009 season. Florida State's probation—which was none of his doing—may break his heart and sap his passion.

**2** No team will finish better than 6-2 in ACC play. Once again, there's no dominating team in the conference to contend for a national title.

**3** This is Bud Foster's Hokie finale. The brilliant Virginia Tech defensive coordinator will finally get a head-coaching job after this season.

**4** Running quarterbacks will rule. Russell Wilson, Tyrod Taylor and Josh Nesbitt lead three of the top contenders for the ACC title.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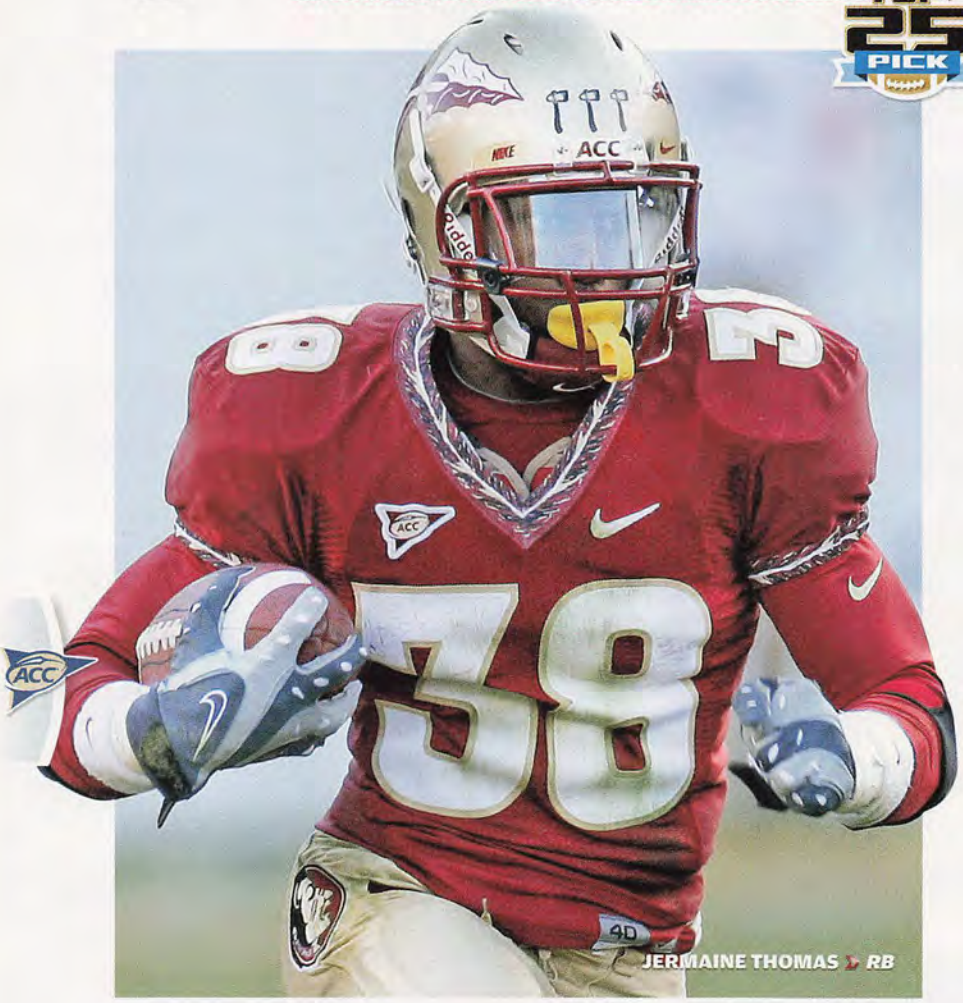
ACC ATLANTIC PRESEASON RANK

# 1 FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

TOP 25 PICK




JERMAINE THOMAS » RB

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| S.7 | Miami (FL) | 41-39 |
| The Seminoles open against their in-state rivals on ESPN. A victory would provide momentum through three nonconference games into the next ACC matchup at Boston College. | | |
| S.12 | Jacksonville State | |
| S.19 | @BRIGHAM YOUNG | |
| S.26 | South Florida | |
| 0.3 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | 17-27 |
| 0.10 | Georgia Tech | 28-31 |
| 0.22 | @NORTH CAROLINA | |
| 0.31 | N.C. State | 26-17 |
| N.7 | @CLEMSON | 41-27 |
| N.14 | @WAKE FOREST | 3-12 |
| N.21 | Maryland | 37-3 |
| N.28 | @FLORIDA | 15-45 |

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» GATOR BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE » A-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» Offense should be potent if QB Christian Ponder performs.
» Major rebuilding job on defense.

It might be too much to ask a Florida State program on probation to make it back to its former glory. But the Seminoles could do the ACC a huge favor by making it as far as Tampa.

When Virginia Tech played Boston College in a second straight conference title matchup last December, fewer than 30,000 fans passed through the turnstiles of Tampa's Raymond James Stadium. The conference, apparently a glutton for punishment, will hold the 2009 title game in Tampa again before moving it to Charlotte for 2010 and 2011.

There are two reasons to hope attendance will improve at this ACC championship. One is Miami. The other is Florida State.

The dream matchup for the conference office would come true if both schools won their divisions. But the strongest and most loyal fans belong to the Seminoles. Apparently not even back-to-back 7-6 seasons in 2006-07 and an academic scandal that resulted in four years of probation and the loss of six scholarships over three seasons can douse the fires of passion among FSU fans.

Around 36,000 showed up at Doak Campbell Stadium for the spring game in April. That's more than last year's ACC Championship Game.

The NCAA ruled that the 14 wins during the 2006 and 2007 seasons be vacated, though FSU has appealed that portion of the sanctions. With the wins, coach Bobby Bowden will enter his 34th season at FSU with 382 career victories, or one fewer than all-time leader Joe Paterno of Penn State. Without them, he's 15 back.

The Seminoles, even after their early home loss to Wake Forest, were back in contention for an ACC title last year before losing 27-17 at home to Boston College on Nov. 15. They finished 9-4, hardly cause for celebration at a school with two national titles and 12 ACC championships, but a significant improvement from the previous two years.

Defensive coordinator Mickey Andrews will have a young defense with only three starters—nose guard Kendrick Stewart, safety Jamie Robinson and cornerback Patrick Robinson—returning from a unit that finished third in the ACC in total defense and fifth in scoring defense in 2008.

But if quarterback Christian Ponder can improve on his sophomore season (when he finished sixth in the conference in pass efficiency), and if offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher can restock a receiving corps that lost Greg Carr and

DALE ZANINE / US PRESSWIRE

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

Christian Ponder

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 115.00 | 318-177-13 | 55.7 | 2006 | 14 | 154.3 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jermaine Thomas | 12 | 69 | 482 | 7.0 | 3 | 40.2 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Taiwan Easterling | 12 | 30 | 322 | 10.7 | 1 | 26.8 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dekoda Watson | 10 | 28 | 18 | 46 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kevin McNeil | 12 | 4 | 33 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jamie Robinson | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Patrick Robinson | 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Dekoda Watson | 1 | 4 | 4.0 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-4
**ACC:** 5-3
*(beat Wisconsin in the Champs Sports Bowl, 24-21)*

**Coach:** Bobby Bowden
34th year (309-91-4)
**Career Record:** 382-123-4
**Offensive coordinator:**
Jimbo Fisher (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Mickey Andrews (26th year)

**Stadium:** Doak S. Campbell Stadium (82,300)
**Tickets:** 850-644-1830
**Site:** Tallahassee, Fla.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.seminoles.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 7 | Christian Ponder (6-2, 217, Jr.) |
| | 3 | EJ Manuel (6-4, 223, Fr.) |
| FB | 35 | Marcus Sims (6-0, 230, Sr.) |
| | 42 | Seddrick Holloway (5-10, 265, Sr.) |
| RB | 38 | Jermaine Thomas (6-1, 190 So.) |
| | 33 | Carlton Jones (5-11, 203, So.) |
| LOT | 67 | Andrew Datko (6-6, 283, So.) |
| | 73 | Rhonne Sanderson (6-4, 288, So.) |
| LOG | 62 | Rodney Hudson (6-2, 285, Jr.) |
| | 73 | Rhonne Sanderson (6-4, 288, So.) |
| C | 60 | Ryan McMahon (6-3, 282, Jr.) |
| | 63 | AJ Ganguzza (6-3, 268, So.) |
| ROG | 79 | David Spurlock (6-5, 285, So.) |
| | 75 | Will Furlong (6-5, 276, So.) |
| ROT | 77 | Zebrie Sanders (6-5, 288, So.) |
| | 70 | Antwane Greenlee (6-6, 293, So.) |
| TE | 81 | Caz Piurowski (6-7, 271, Sr.) |
| | 85 | Ja'Baris Little (6-4, 226, So.) |
| WR | 9 | Richard Goodman (6-0, 191, r-Sr.) |
| | 86 | Rod Owens (6-0, 183, Sr.) |
| WR | 83 | Bert Reed (5-11, 165, So.) |
| | 80 | Jarmon Fortson (6-3, 223, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 95 | Kevin McNeil (6-2, 257, Sr.) |
| | 55 | Jamar Jackson (6-4, 240, So.) |
| LDT | 94 | Justin Mincey (6-5, 272, Sr.) |
| | 90 | Moses McCray (6-2, 298, So.) |
| RDT | 56 | Kendrick Stewart (6-2, 271, Sr.) |
| | 93 | Everette Dawkins (6-2, 258, So.) |
| RDE | 98 | Markus White (6-4, 261, Sr.) |
| | 96 | Toshmon Stevens (6-5, 228, So.) |
| SLB | 36 | Dekoda Watson (6-2, 226, Sr.) |
| | 12 | Nigel Carr (6-3, 230, So.) |
| MLB | 41 | Kendall Smith (6-1, 230, Jr.) |
| | 11 | Vince Williams (6-0, 245, So.) |
| WLB | 13 | Nigel Bradham (6-2, 235, So.) |
| | 44 | Maurice Harris (6-0, 212, So.) |
| LCB | 15 | Ochucko Jenije (5-10, 188, Jr.) |
| | 28 | Dionte Allen (5-11, 172, So.) |
| RCB | 21 | Patrick Robinson (5-11, 194, Sr.) |
| | 26 | AJ Alexander (5-11, 180, Fr.) |
| FS | 20 | Jamie Robinson (6-2, 188, Sr.) |
| | 27 | Terrance Parks (6-1, 196, So.) |
| SS | 22 | Korey Mangum (6-0, 202, Sr.) |
| | 27 | Terrance Parks (6-1, 196, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 41 | James Esco (6-1, 205, So.) |
| P | 45 | Shawn Powell (6-5, 217, So.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | FSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 434 | 262 |
| Points Per Game | 33.4 | 20.2 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 265 | 214 |
| Rushing | 131 | 89 |
| Passing | 113 | 90 |
| Penalty | 21 | 35 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2328 | 1723 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2716 | 2213 |
| Yards lost rushing | 388 | 490 |
| Rushing Attempts | 483 | 450 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.8 | 3.8 |
| Average Per Game | 179.1 | 132.5 |
| TDs Rushing | 27 | 12 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2506 | 2111 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 387-211-16 | 342-175-9 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.5 | 6.2 |
| Average Per Catch | 11.9 | 12.1 |
| Average Per Game | 192.8 | 162.4 |
| TDs Passing | 18 | 15 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4834 | 3834 |
| Total Plays | 870 | 792 |
| Average Per Play | 5.6 | 4.8 |
| Average Per Game | 371.8 | 294.9 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 53-1280 | 1431 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 24-209 | 16-138 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 9-56 | 16-287 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | FSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 24.2 | 20.2 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 8.7 | 8.6 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 6.2 | 17.9 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 23-10 | 24-17 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 102-937 | 76-593 |
| Average Per Game | 72.1 | 45.6 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 41-1649 | 65-2426 |
| Average Per Punt | 40.2 | 37.3 |
| Net punt average | 36.4 | 32.0 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 31:36 | 28:20 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 79/172 | 43/167 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 46% | 26% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 4/12 | 10/23 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 33% | 43% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 39-288 | 26-187 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 51 | 29 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 25-30 | 19-26 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 47-50 | 29-29 |
| ATTENDANCE | 545773 | 227577 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/77968 | 4/56894 |
| Neutral Site Games | 0 | 2/49704 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Florida State | 65 | 146 | 106 | 117 | 434 |
| Opponent | 71 | 58 | 61 | 72 | 262 |

Preston Parker, then the offense might be able to shoulder the load.

The Seminoles' strength appears to be a starting offensive line that returns intact sans any seniors. Three of them (tackles Andrew Datko and Zebrie Sanders and guard David Spurlock) are sophomores; center Ryan McMahon and guard Rodney Hudson are juniors.

Antone Smith, who ranked 10th in the ACC with 60.9 yards a game as a senior, will have to be replaced at running back. The two leading candidates are sophomores Jermaine Thomas and Carlton Jones. Thomas averaged seven yards a carry last season, while Jones contributed 55 yards and a touchdown on just four carries against Wisconsin in the Champs Sports Bowl.

With Taiwan Easterling (30 receptions) out of spring practice with a ruptured Achilles, Fisher opened the position to competition. Bert Reed (23) and Rod Owens (15) are back, although Owens was suspended indefinitely after being charged with DUI in April. Senior Richard Goodman caught 20 passes in 2007 before sitting out last year as a redshirt.

The big losses on defense were Everette Brown, a first-team All-ACC tackle who left early to enter the NFL draft, and safety Myron Rolle, a second-team All-ACC safety who passed up his senior year to accept the Rhodes Scholarship and attend Oxford University in England.

Brown will be hard to replace, but Markus White (5.5 tackles for loss) will try, as he is a former National Junior College Player of the Year.

Linebackers coach Chuck Amato will miss Derek Nicholson and Toddrick Verdell, the Seminoles' top two tacklers last season. Dekoda Watson, who missed the spring recovering from elbow surgery, had inquired about becoming a professional, but vowed to come back this season. And the Seminoles will need him.

They also must find someone to handle the punting and kicking assignments with the departure of Graham Gano, last year's Lou Groza Award winner. A third-team All-American, Gano led the nation with 2.18 field goals per game and averaged 42.7 yards on 22 punts after beating Shawn Powell out midway through last season.

Powell is expected to regain his position at punter. Sophomore James Esco is the favorite in a three-way race for the placekicking job.

## RECRUITING REPORT

The Seminoles put together the top class in the ACC, and there is star power across the board.

Florida State brought in its fair share of the best prospects from the Sunshine State. They also reached into other states like Ohio, Texas, Mississippi and South Carolina.

Five-star defensive tackle **Jacobbi McDaniel** will arrive on campus as perhaps the most highly touted recruit for FSU. Though he lacks size, his explosiveness makes him difficult to block. Fellow five-star cornerback **Greg Reid** is an electrifying playmaker in the secondary. Reid will be joined in the defensive backfield by **Jajaun Harley**, who has plenty of speed.

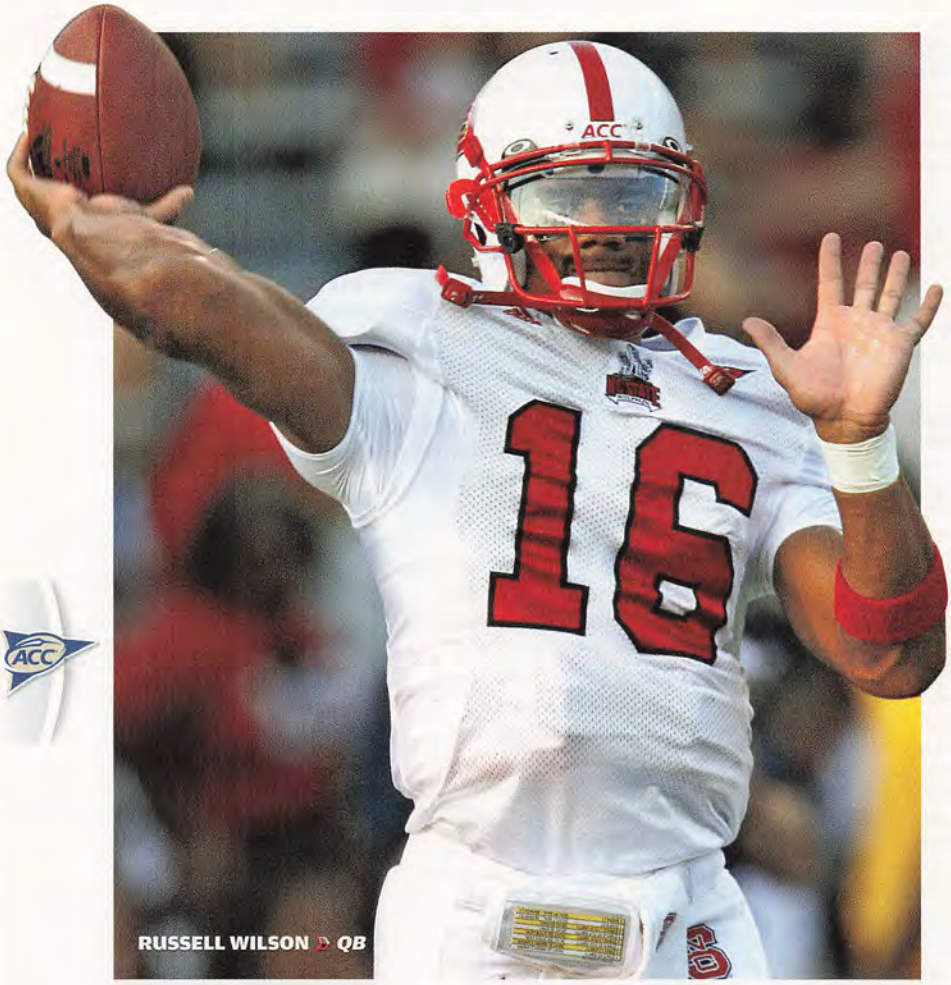
The offense also received a talent boost. Four-star running backs **Lonnie Pryor** and **Chris Thompson** will solidify that position in the future. **Willie Haulstead** and **Rodney Smith** have the size to present huge matchup problems at wide receiver.

*—Mike Farrell*, Rivals.com

## THE NEXT BIG THING *JERMAINE THOMAS, RB*

Thomas averaged seven yards per carry last year as a backup to Antone Smith. With Smith gone, Thomas will get more carries behind a talented offensive line.

# 2 N.C. STATE WOLFPACK



RUSSELL WILSON » QB

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | South Carolina | 0-34 |
| S.12 | Murray State | |
| S.19 | Gardner-Webb | |
| S.26 | Pittsburgh | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**0.3 @WAKE FOREST 21-17**

N.C. State knocked off the Deacons last season in Raleigh. Two in a row would give the Wolfpack a leg up in the Atlantic Division race.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0.10 | Duke | 27-17 |
| 0.17 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | 31-38 |
| 0.31 | @FLORIDA STATE | 17-26 |
| N.7 | Maryland | 24-27 |
| N.14 | Clemson | 9-27 |
| N.21 | @VIRGINIA TECH | |
| N.28 | North Carolina | 41-10 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL

» CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE » B+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

» Russell Wilson is the ACC's best quarterback.

» Coach Tom O'Brien will build on last season's turnaround.

Give a good college coach a good quarterback and good things will happen.

Tom O'Brien has proved he can coach, averaging 7.6 victories over his 10 seasons at Boston College. And midway through his second year at N.C. State, he had the best quarterback in the ACC.

A series of injuries that hindered redshirt freshman Russell Wilson fully cleared and he showed his talent last year. The Wolfpack, after losing six of its first eight games in '08, used the off week of Nov. 1 to bond as a team. Then the unit, led by Wilson's passing and running, won its final four regular-season games to earn an invitation to play Rutgers in the Papajohns.com Bowl.

But for all his laurels, which included becoming the first freshman to be named a first-team All-ACC quarterback, Wilson has been guaranteed nothing for 2009. He rehabbed his knee in time for spring practices, but split time as an infielder for the Wolfpack baseball team. And O'Brien made it clear that Wilson would have beat out the competition—redshirt freshman Mike Glennon—to start this season.

"Everybody competes," O'Brien says. "They don't own the jersey. N.C. State owns the jersey."

Glennon is expected to be a good player. And he'll have to be if he's going to unseat Wilson, who completed 150 passes for 1,955 yards and carried 116 times for 388 yards and four touchdowns.

But Wilson's most impressive statistic was his 17 touchdown passes with only one interception. He will enter the 2009 campaign having thrown 249 consecutive passes without an interception—just 21 shy of the ACC record Drew Weatherford of Florida State set in 2007.

Coaches are usually credited with changing a team's fortunes from one season to the next. But more often than not, a team evolves during a season and they never regress.

The Wolfpack arrived during that off week, having lost four in a row. The team that ran the table against in-state rivals Duke, Wake Forest and North Carolina and then knocked off Miami to become bowl-eligible bore little resemblance to the one South Florida buried 41-10 in Raleigh early in 2008.

Seven players will return to a defense that held Duke, Wake Forest and North Carolina all to 17 points or fewer. The ringleaders are linebackers Nate Irving and Ray Michel and end Willie Young.

The experienced players up front are tackle Alan-Michael Cash, who started

BOB LEVERONE / SN

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

| Russell Wilson | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 11 | 133.93 | 275-150-1 | 54.5 | 1955 | 17 | 177.7 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jamelle Eugene | 10 | 95 | 442 | 4.7 | 2 | 44.2 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Owen Spencer | 13 | 31 | 691 | 22.3 | 5 | 53.2 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ray Michel | 13 | 39 | 46 | 85 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Willie Young | 13 | 6 | 51 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nate Irving | 4 | 83 | 20.8 | 1 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 6-7
**ACC:** 4-4
*(lost to Rutgers in the Papajohns.com Bowl, 29-23)*

**Coach:** Tom O'Brien
3rd year (11-14)
**Career record:** 86-59
**Offensive coordinator:**
Dana Bible (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Mike Archer (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Carter-Finley Stadium (60,000)
**Tickets:** 800-310-PACK
**Site:** Raleigh, N.C.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.gopack.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 16 | Russell Wilson (5-11, 191, So.) |
| | 8 | Mike Glennon (6-6, 195, Fr.) |
| FB | 47 | Taylor Gentry (6-2, 215, So.) |
| | 48 | Colby Jackson (6-2, 225, Fr.) |
| RB | 22 | Toney Baker (5-10, 225, Sr.) |
| | 29 | Jamelle Eugene (5-10, 195, Sr.) |
| LOT | 70 | Jake Vermiglio (6-5, 315, Jr.) |
| | | Sam Jones (6-7, 295, Fr.) |
| LOG | 73 | Julian Williams (6-5, 305, Sr.) |
| | 64 | Andrew Wallace (6-5, 280, Fr.) |
| C | 58 | Ted Larsen (6-2, 295, Sr.) |
| | 54 | Henry Lawson (6-3, 289, So.) |
| ROG | 74 | Andy Barbee (6-3, 310, Sr.) |
| | 72 | Zach Allen (6-3, 300, Fr.) |
| ROT | 50 | Jeraill McCuller (6-7, 330, Sr.) |
| | 79 | R.J. Mattes (6-6, 295, Fr.) |
| TE | 84 | George Bryan (6-5, 265, So.) |
| | 87 | Mario Carter (6-4, 230, Fr.) |
| WR | 5 | Jarvis Williams (6-4, 205, Jr.) |
| | 6 | T.J. Graham (6-0, 180, So.) |
| WR | 13 | Owen Spencer (6-3, 180, Jr.) |
| | 85 | Steven Howard (6-2, 190, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 98 | Shea McKeen (6-5, 250, Sr.) |
| | 11 | Audi Augustin (6-2, 253, Jr.) |
| LDT | 95 | LeRoy Burgess (6-1, 300, Sr.) |
| | 52 | J.R. Sweezy (6-5, 255, So.) |
| RDT | 49 | Alan-Michael Cash (6-1, 286, Sr.) |
| | | Nathan Mageo (6-3, 285, Jr.) |
| RDE | 97 | Willie Young (6-5, 243, Sr.) |
| | 99 | Jeff Rieskamp (6-3, 235, So.) |
| SLB | 41 | Dwayne Maddox (6-2, 225, So.) |
| | 35 | Terrell Manning (6-3, 220, Fr.) |
| MLB | 44 | Ray Michel (6-0, 224, Sr.) |
| | 7 | Sterling Lucas (6-2, 220, So.) |
| WLB | 56 | Nate Irving (6-1, 225, Jr.) |
| | 42 | Audie Cole (6-5, 229, So.) |
| LCB | 21 | DeAndre Morgan (5-10, 170, Jr.) |
| | 33 | Koyal George (5-11, 175, Sr.) |
| RCB | 20 | Dominique Ellis (5-11, 190, So.) |
| | 46 | C.J. Wilson (5-11, 171, Fr.) |
| FS | 28 | Justin Byers (6-0, 185, So.) |
| | 32 | Jimmaul Simmons (6-2, 200, So.) |
| SS | 19 | Clem Johnson (6-0, 190, Sr.) |
| | 27 | Earl Wolff (6-0, 190, Fr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 36 | Josh Czajkowski (5-9, 184, Jr.) |
| P | 38 | Jeff Ruiz (6-2, 185, Sr.) |

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | NCSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 305 | 342 |
| Points Per Game | 23.5 | 26.3 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 223 | 278 |
| Rushing | 98 | 114 |
| Passing | 110 | 149 |
| Penalty | 15 | 15 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1601 | 1849 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2023 | 2121 |
| Yards lost rushing | 422 | 272 |
| Rushing Attempts | 442 | 442 |
| Average Per Rush | 3.6 | 4.2 |
| Average Per Game | 123.2 | 142.2 |
| TDs Rushing | 14 | 17 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2678 | 3233 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 392-197-14 | 447-278-18 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.8 | 7.2 |
| Average Per Catch | 13.6 | 11.6 |
| Average Per Game | 206 | 248.7 |
| TDs Passing | 20 | 20 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4279 | 5082 |
| Total Plays | 834 | 889 |
| Average Per Play | 5.1 | 5.7 |
| Average Per Game | 329.2 | 390.9 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 60-1387 | 57-1261 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 20-166 | 22-128 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 18-197 | 14-244 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | NCSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 23.1 | 22.1 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 8.3 | 5.8 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 10.9 | 17.4 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 28-6 | 19-10 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 71-550 | 64-591 |
| Average Per Game | 42.3 | 45.5 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 62-2369 | 51-2214 |
| Average Per Punt | 38.2 | 43.4 |
| Net punt average | 35.2 | 37.4 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 29:39 | 30:21 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 68/179 | 69/174 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 0.38 | 40% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 38518 | 12/21 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 0.38 | 57% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 23-144 | 29-197 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 37 | 39 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 16-19 | 22-25 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 33-34 | 38-39 |
| ATTENDANCE | 396658 | 294098 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/56665 | 5/58820 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/38582 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N.C. State | 77 | 86 | 62 | 74 | 6 | 305 |
| Opponent | 79 | 77 | 75 | 111 | 0 | 342 |

10 games last season, and defensive end Shea McKeen, who started nine. O'Brien will retool his secondary around cornerback DeAndre Morgan, who started 10 games, and safety Justin Byers, who started eight.

The Wolfpack improved dramatically on defense last season, especially against the run. N.C. State's first eight opponents averaged 170.1 yards rushing a game; its final five averaged just 97.6.

Irving's return from an ankle injury contributed to the turnaround, but some of the younger players on the defense also grew into their positions. If N.C. State's defense carries its 2008 momentum into this season, the Wolfpack could shake up the conference.

Wilson, who is dangerous in the open field, is not the ACC's most accurate passer, but he was good enough last season to lead the conference with a passing-efficiency rating of 133.9. And he should have an improved receiving corps, with Owen Spencer (31 catches, 691 yards), Jarvis Williams (26, 432) and T.J. Graham (16, 251) all back and more experienced.

O'Brien shuffled his running backs last season and is likely to do so again. Jamelle Eugene (442 rushing yards, 26 catches) missed spring practice to recover from shoulder surgery, and his place was filled by Toney Baker, who is on the comeback trail after missing the last two seasons with knee injuries.

Others battling for playing time are redshirt freshman Brandon Barnes and true freshman James Washington, who enrolled last January after graduating from Boone High School in Orlando.

Three starters return on the offensive line in center Ted Larsen and tackles Jeraill McCuller and Jake Vermiglio.

The offense was good enough to rank fifth in the ACC last season with 329.2 yards per game, and was efficient when it mattered most. N.C. State tied for eighth nationally in red-zone offensive efficiency, scoring 91 percent of the time it made a first down inside the opponent's 20-yard line.

That's the sign of an offensive line that's able to produce holes and a quarterback capable of taking advantage of them.

## RECRUITING REPORT

Under the previous coaching regime, Wolfpack fans had become accustomed to raiding the state of Florida on an annual basis. While they will still look to Florida like any other school in the region, Tom O'Brien and his staff are busy building new pipelines to different states.

N.C. State's 27 prospects in the Class of 2009 hail from 11 states. They come from as far west as New Mexico and as far north as Massachusetts. Five defensive tackles form the nucleus of this group.

**Tyson Chandler** is a load at 6-6 and 344 pounds, and he could play on either the offensive or defensive line. **Raynard Randolph** is another big body who should be a force at defensive tackle or offensive guard.

There's plenty of skill-position talent in this class as well. Wide receivers **Quintin Payton** and **Bryan Underwood** have the speed to get on the field early, and four-star cornerback **Jarvis Byrd** comes to Raleigh from Florida as the most highly touted prospect in the class.

In all, the 'Pack did a very nice job considering how well Butch Davis and archrival North Carolina fared with in-state recruits.

*—Mike Farrell, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *T.J. GRAHAM, WR*

After setting the school record for the most kickoff-return yards in a single game (100), Graham should have a breakout season at wide receiver. He caught 16 passes for 251 yards last season.

# 3 WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS

Wake Forest has plenty of reasons to slide from ACC contention back into the lower echelons of the conference. One is named Aaron Curry. Alphonso Smith, Chip Vaughn and Stanley Arnoux are others. All were high on the list of best defensive players to ever play their positions at Wake Forest, and all were seniors who ended their college careers in '08.

Seven starters were lost from a defense that helped Wake finish 8-5 and come within one game of returning to the ACC championship for the second time in three seasons. Also, this class took the Deacons to their third straight bowl game.

For the Deacons to make it four bowl trips in a row and contend for the ACC title again, they'll depend on some untested players. But most of all, it will require a step forward by an offense that sulked in the shadows of the defense last season.

However, nine offensive players who started in the EagleBank Bowl are back, including quarterback Riley Skinner.

The backfield returns intact, though Kevin Harris shook up the pecking order in the EagleBank Bowl. Harris got a crack at running back when injuries slowed Brandon Pendergrass and Josh Adams, the 2007 ACC Rookie of the Year.

Senior Demir Boldin (ACC-best 81 catches in '08) is gone, but receivers Marshall Williams, Jordan Williams, Devon Brown, Danny Dembry, Terence Davis and Chris Givens are all ready.

For two years in a row, the offensive line has closed the season strong but struggled through injuries and linemen not playing to their potential.

For Wake Forest to stand out this season, the offensive line will have to be good from the start. And it should be, given the return of eight players—Jeff Griffin, Joe Birdsong, Chris DeGeare, Russell Nenon, Barrett McMillin, Trey Bailey, Joe Looney and Doug Weaver.

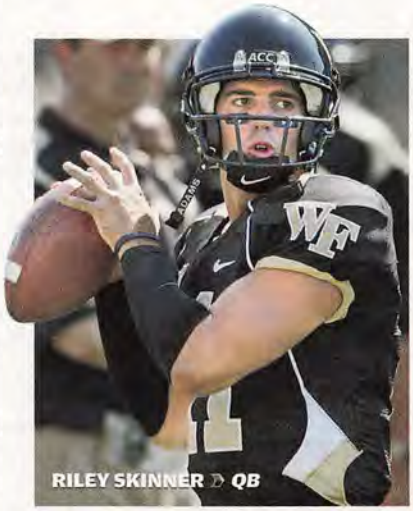
The Deacons did take a hit on defense, losing linebackers Curry, Arnoux and Chantz McClinic, safeties Vaughn and Kevin Patterson, cornerback Smith and end Matt Robinson.

It may prove that the Deacons can't play the kind of defense required for a winning season in the ACC, but the coaching staff is confident the recruiting has been strong enough over the past few years that replacements are on hand.

Brad Lambert, the defensive coordinator, says the line is a great place to start a rebuilding project. To build around, he has two of the ACC's best defensive tackles in Boo Robinson and John Russell.

All three starters at linebacker—Matt Woodlief in the middle and Hunter Haynes and Jonathan Jones on the outside—played enough last season to give Lambert a good idea of what to expect from this corp.

The secondary is also green, though cornerback Brandon Ghee has started 21 games in his career. Josh Bush, who started two games last year, is expected to succeed Smith at the other corner, and Alex Frye and Cyhl Quarles will get their chances at safety.



RILEY SKINNER ▷ QB

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***KYLE WILBER, DE***

Wilber made an impression in his first college game, running down Baylor's speedy QB Robert Griffin. He has the wheels to be a force in the ACC.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5
**ACC:** 4-4
*(beat Navy in the EagleBank Bowl, 29-19)*

**Coach:** Jim Grobe
9th year (54-44)
**Career record:** 87-77-1
**Offensive coordinator:**
Steed Lobotzke (7th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Brad Lambert (2nd year)

**Stadium:** BB&T Field (31,500)
**Tickets:** 888-758-DEAC
**Site:** Winston-Salem, N.C.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.wakeforestsports.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Baylor | 41-13 |
| S.12 | Stanford | |
| S.19 | Elon | |
| S.26 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | 21-24 |
| O.3 | N.C. State | 17-21 |
| O.10 | Maryland | 0-26 |
| O.17 | @CLEMSON | 12-7 |
| O.24 | @NAVY | 17-24 |
| O.31 | Miami (FL) | 10-16 |
| N.7 | @GEORGIA TECH | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.14 Florida State** 12-3

Wake Forest have beaten the Seminoles three straight years. If they make it a fourth, the Deacons should be in the thick of the conference title race again.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| N.28 | @DUKE | 33-30 (OT) |

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL
» EMERALD BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» Quarterback Riley Skinner leads an experienced offense.
» The defense must rebuild.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 11 | Riley Skinner (6-1, 210, Sr.) |
| FB | 44 | Mike Rinfrette (6-3, 260, Sr.) |
| RB | 23 | Kevin Harris (6-1, 225, Sr.) |
| LOT | 70 | Chris DeGeare (6-4, 335, Sr.) |
| LOG | 61 | Barrett McMillin (6-3, 290, Sr.) |
| C | 72 | Russell Nenon (6-4, 295, Jr.) |
| ROG | 64 | Jeff Griffin (6-3, 290, Sr.) |
| ROT | 76 | Joe Birdsong (6-4, 290, Sr.) |
| TE | 85 | Ben Wooster (6-5, 235, Sr.) |
| WR | 8 | Marshall Williams (6-1, 185, Jr.) |
| WR | 3 | Devon Brown (5-9, 185, So.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 55 | Tristan Dorty (6-2, 250, So.) |
| LDT | 96 | Boo Robinson (6-2, 295, Sr.) |
| RDT | 51 | John Russell (6-4, 280, Sr.) |
| RDE | 97 | Kyle Wilber (6-5, 230, So.) |
| SLB | 26 | Jonathan Jones (6-3, 240, Sr.) |
| MLB | 46 | Matt Woodlief (5-11, 254, Jr.) |
| WLB | 56 | Hunter Haynes (6-2, 240, Jr.) |
| LCB | 25 | Josh Bush (5-11, 195, So.) |
| RCB | 17 | Brandon Ghee (6-0, 191, Sr.) |
| FS | 21 | Alex Frye (6-3, 195, Jr.) |
| SS | 28 | Cyhl Quarles (6-3, 205, So.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 14 | Shane Popham (5-11, 190, So.) |
| P | 14 | Shane Popham (5-11, 190, So.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1**
**John Gallagher**
*DT, 6-4, 252*
Gallagher, though undersized, has the tools to be a big-time player after a redshirt year in 2008.

**2**
**Daniel Mack**
*LB, 6-0, 196*
Mack is also undersized for his position. The prospect has good range, however, and tackles well.

**3**
**Michael Campanaro**
*ATH, 5-10, 173*
Campanaro has the versatility coaches love. He could line up in the slot or on defense.

**4**
**Quan Rucker**
*WR, 6-0, 182*
Rucker had offers from South Carolina, Clemson, N.C. State and others, but he chose Wake Forest instead.

**5**
**Justin Jackson**
*LB, 6-1, 212*
Jackson recorded an eye-popping 191 tackles, 18 tackles for loss and eight sacks as a senior.

BOB LEVERONE / SN

# CLEMSON TIGERS 4

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Middle Tennessee | |
| S.10 | @GEORGIA TECH | 17-21 |
| S.19 | Boston College | 27-21 |
| S.26 | TCU | |
| O.3 | @MARYLAND | 17-20 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **0.17** | **Wake Forest** | **7-12** |
| The Tigers have a great shot of winning their first two division games at home against Boston College and at Maryland. If Clemson beats Wake Forest, it should be in the ACC hunt. | | |
| 0.24 | @MIAMI (FL) | |
| 0.31 | Coastal Carolina | |
| N.7 | Florida State | 27-41 |
| N.14 | @N.C. STATE | 27-9 |
| N.21 | Virginia | 13-3 |
| N.28 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | 31-14 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL

» MEINEKE CAR CARE BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

» No shortage of talent in Tigertown.

» Is coach Dabo Swinney the right man for the job?

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 3 | Willy Korn (6-2, 220, So.) |
| FB | 5 | Rendrick Taylor (6-2, 255, Sr.) |
| RB | 28 | C.J. Spiller (5-11, 195, Sr.) |
| LOT | 61 | Chris Hairston (6-6, 320, Jr.) |
| LOG | 65 | Thomas Austin (6-3, 315, Sr.) |
| C | 62 | Mason Cloy (6-3, 310, So.) |
| ROG | 74 | Antoine McClain (6-5, 305, So.) |
| ROT | 72 | Landon Walker (6-5, 300, So.) |
| TE | 86 | Michael Palmer (6-5, 250, Sr.) |
| WR | 6 | Jacoby Ford (5-10, 185, Jr.) |
| WR | 87 | Terrance Ashe (6-2, 190, Jr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 93 | Da'Quan Bowers (6-4, 275, So.) |
| LDT | 99 | Jarvis Jenkins (6-4, 305, Jr.) |
| RDT | 98 | Brandon Thompson (6-2, 315, So.) |
| RDE | 24 | Kevin Alexander (6-3, 255, Sr.) |
| SLB | 44 | Scotty Cooper (6-1, 215, Jr.) |
| MLB | 20 | Brandon Maye (6-2, 225, So.) |
| WLB | 33 | Kavell Conner (6-1, 225, Sr.) |
| LCB | 38 | Chris Chancellor (5-10, 165, Sr.) |
| RCB | 18 | Crezdon Butler (6-0, 185, Sr.) |
| FS | 27 | Sadat Chambers (5-11, 190, Sr.) |
| SS | 2 | DeAndre McDaniel (6-1, 200, Jr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 19 | Richard Jackson (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| P | 19 | Richard Jackson (5-11, 190, Jr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 7-6
**ACC:** 4-4
*(lost to Nebraska in the Gator Bowl, 26-21)*

**Coach:** Dabo Swinney, 2nd year (4-3)
**Career record:** 4-3
**Offensive coordinator:** Billy Napier (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinators:** Ron West (1st year) Kevin Steele (1st year)

**Stadium:** Clemson Memorial Stadium (80,301)
**Tickets:** 864-656-2118
**Site:** Clemson, S.C.
**Official athletic Web site:** www.clemsontigers.com

GEOFF BURKE / US PRESSWIRE

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

Coach Dabo Swinney said he would continue a tradition he started of having the Tigers parade 200 yards through game-day fans on their way from the bus to the locker room at Memorial Stadium.

If this is true, Swinney had better win. Otherwise, he could find himself coaching his team through a much older game called "running the gauntlet."

Football reigns supreme in Clemson, but only if the Tigers are winning. When they lose, things turn bad.

After the team that was predicted to win the ACC lost three of its first six games, the scene got so ugly that coach Tommy Bowden stepped down under extreme duress.

The housecleaning didn't end there. Swinney, the assistant head coach who took over for Bowden, dismissed offensive coordinator Rob Spence and replaced him with Billy Napier, the tight ends coach. Before the Tigers lost to Nebraska in the Gator Bowl to finish 7-6, defensive coordinator Vic Koenning announced his departure.

Also gone are wide receiver Aaron Kelly, the ACC's all-time leader (232) in receptions, and running back James Davis (3,881 career rushing yards). Quarterback Cullen Harper departed as well.

But Clemson still has talent.

C.J. Spiller, after sharing the spotlight for two seasons with Davis, now becomes the show at running back. He already has 2,335 rushing yards and 20 touchdowns.

The line also looks promising with five regulars back. Senior Thomas Austin, who has started 25 games at either guard or center, was named a second-team All-ACC center last season but was listed on Clemson's spring depth chart at guard. If he settles in, then Mason Cloy, a Freshman All-American last season, may take over at center.

With Kelly gone, senior Jacoby Ford becomes Clemson's prime receiving target. Ford caught 55 passes last season for 710 yards and four scores.

The wide-receiver rotation is expected to showcase Xavier Dye, Terrance Ashe and Marquan Jones, all of whom are fast and talented but remain untested.

If the Tigers can find a quarterback, they should be potent. Swinney and Napier will choose from among Willy Korn, Kyle Parker and Michael Wade.

Korn caused a buzz by signing with Clemson after being named Player of the Year in South Carolina as both a prep junior and senior. He played two games in 2007, but missed the rest of the season with a shoulder injury. Parker, from Jacksonville, Fla., also plays for the Clemson baseball team and was good enough to be named a first-team All-ACC center fielder as a freshman in 2008. And Wade is a converted safety who holds for placekicks.

The Tigers will be loaded on defense with eight starters back, including cornerbacks Chris Chancellor and Crezdon Butler. Returning linebackers Kavell Conner and Brandon Maye both started at least eight games last year.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 Malliciah Goodman**
*DE, 6-4, 255*
The top-ranked recruit in South Carolina, Goodman is a specimen with the athleticism of a smaller prospect.

**2 Tajh Boyd**
*QB, 6-1, 208*
Boyd feels comfortable in the pocket but can also pick up rushing yards when things break down during a play.

**3 Bryce McNeal**
*WR, 6-2, 170*
McNeal was the top-ranked prospect in Minnesota, and chose Clemson for its offense. He is a big-time addition.

**4 Roderick McDowell**
*RB, 5-10, 175*
McDowell has track speed, and the coaches also love his ability to catch the ball out of the backfield.

**5 Brandon Thomas**
*OT, 6-4, 280*
An offensive tackle with athleticism, Thomas runs a sub-4.8-second 40-yard dash and will be effective in the running game.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***BRANDON MAYE, LB***

Named first-team All-Freshman by the Football Writers of America, Maye delivered 87 tackles last season, the most by a Clemson freshman since Anthony Simmons in 1995.

# 5 MARYLAND TERRAPINS

If offense fills the seats while defense wins championships, then Maryland should have plenty of people watching it come up short of the ACC Championship Game in 2009.

No ACC team lost more players to spent eligibility than Maryland, which will have to replace seven starters of defense and five on offense. But even with the defection of star receiver Darrius Heyward-Bey to the NFL (as the No. 7 overall pick), the offense has some key players back.

Last season, the Terps' offense ranked third in the ACC with 350.7 yards per game. If coordinator James Franklin can retool a line that lost three starters, Maryland will have a chance to produce lots of offense.

Tailback Da'Rel Scott made a splash last season as a sophomore, rushing for 1,133 yards and making first-team All-ACC. And Chris Turner finally won the quarterback position in 2008, ranking third in the conference with 193.5 passing yards a game.

The Terps' backfield should be one of the ACC's best, with fullback Cory Jackson and Davin Meggett joining Scott and Turner. Jackson, who missed spring drills recovering from knee surgery, is a menacing blocker who caught 12 passes last season.

The departure of Heyward-Bey turns the spotlight to Torrey Smith, a sophomore wideout who set the ACC's single-season record on kickoff returns (1,089 yards).

And sophomore Ronnie Tyler gave Franklin reason to feel better about his receiving corps after catching five passes for 55 yards and a touchdown in the Terps' victory over Nevada in the Humanitarian Bowl.

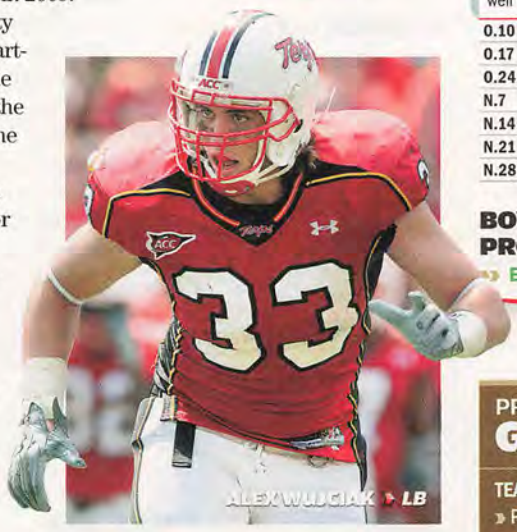
Speed is not a problem with the return of receivers Emani Lee-Odai and LaQuan Williams. However, Franklin needs to replace three starters on the offensive line, though he does have Bruce Campbell and Phil Costa to rebuild around.

Campbell is a tackle who started the final seven games last year, while Costa has started 19 games in his career as a guard but is listed as the starting center this year. Also starting on the line will be Lamar Young at left guard, Justin Lewis at right guard and Paul Pinegar at right tackle.

Attempting to get the defense back on track is former Massachusetts head coach Don Brown, who was hired to replace Chris Cosh as defensive coordinator. He has one starting linebacker returning in second-team All-ACC pick Alex Wujciak (133 tackles). Adrian Moten will start at strongside linebacker, with Demetrius Hartsfield on the weak side.

The Terps will play this season without starting defensive tackle Jeremy Navarre, who has exhausted his eligibility.

Brown will also have to replace end Mack Frost, end/linebacker Trey Covington, cornerback Kevin Barnes and safety Jeff Allen. So the key to '09 will be how soon ends Derek Drummond and Jared Harrell, tackles Dion Armstrong and Travis Ivey, safety Jamari McCollough and corner Nolan Carroll can contribute.


ALEX WUJCIAK ▸ LB

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***TORREY SMITH, WR***

As a freshman last year, Smith set the ACC record for kick-return yardage in a single season. He will be a prime receiving threat this year with the departure of Darrius Heyward-Bey.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @CALIFORNIA | 35-27 |
| S.12 | James Madison | |
| S.19 | Middle Tennessee | 14-24 |
| S.26 | Rutgers | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**0.3 Clemson 20-17**

The Terps travel to Wake Forest, N.C. State and FSU. If they can't beat Clemson at home in their ACC opener, it doesn't bode well for their conference title chances.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0.10 | @WAKE FOREST | 26-0 |
| 0.17 | Virginia | 0-31 |
| 0.24 | @DUKE | |
| N.7 | @NORTH CAROLINA STATE | 27-24 |
| N.14 | Virginia Tech | 13-23 |
| N.21 | @FLORIDA STATE | 3-37 |
| N.28 | Boston College | 21-28 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** MIDDLE TIER BOWL

» EAGLEBANK BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Potent offense if line can be retooled.
- Defense crippled by spent eligibility.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5
**ACC:** 4-4
*(beat Nevada in the Humanitarian Bowl, 42-35)*

**Coach:** Ralph Friedgen
9th year (64-36)
**Career record:** 64-36
**Offensive coordinator:**
James Franklin (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Don Brown (1st year)

**Stadium:** Byrd Stadium (51,500)
**Tickets:** 301-314-7070
**Site:** College Park
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.umterps.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 10 | Chris Turner (6-4, 220, Sr.) |
| FB | 38 | Cory Jackson (6-1, 245, Sr.) |
| RB | 23 | Da'Rel Scott (5-11, 200, Jr.) |
| LOT | 74 | Bruce Campbell (6-7, 310, Jr.) |
| LOG | 70 | Lamar Young (6-4, 320, So.) |
| C | 72 | Phil Costa (6-3, 300, Sr.) |
| ROG | 78 | Justin Lewis (6-4, 320, Fr.) |
| ROT | 71 | Paul Pinegar (6-4, 280, Jr.) |
| TE | 45 | Tommy Galt (6-5, 260, Sr.) |
| WR | 82 | Torrey Smith (6-1, 200, So.) |
| WR | 83 | Emani Lee-Odai (6-2, 200, Jr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 57 | Jared Harrell (6-5, 265, Sr.) |
| LDT | 90 | Travis Ivey (6-4, 325, Sr.) |
| RDT | 92 | Dion Armstrong (6-1, 303, So.) |
| RDE | 44 | Derek Drummond (6-4, 250, So.) |
| SLB | 54 | Adrian Moten (6-2, 230, Jr.) |
| MLB | 33 | Alex Wujciak (6-3, 255, So.) |
| WLB | 50 | Demetrius Hartsfield (6-2, 230, Fr.) |
| LCB | 6 | Anthony Wiseman (5-10, 185, Sr.) |
| RCB | 14 | Nolan Carroll (6-1, 202, Sr.) |
| FS | 1 | Terrell Skinner (6-3, 214, Sr.) |
| SS | 4 | Jamari McCollough (5-11, 200, Sr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 32 | Nick Wallace (5-9, 195, Jr.) |
| P | 35 | Travis Baltz (6-2, 200, Jr.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — DeOnte Arnett**
*DE, 6-4, 243*
It would be hard to find a tougher prospect, and Arnett's football IQ makes him an intriguing player.

**2 — Travis Hawkins**
*CB, 5-10, 181*
Hawkins has a 340-pound bench press, and he is one of the few young corners out there who doesn't mind a lot of contact.

**3 — D.J. Adams**
*RB, 5-10, 210*
Adams has a strong build and is tough to bring down if only one defender is trying to tackle him.

**4 — Peter White**
*OG, 6-4, 340*
White has NFL written all over him. He moves well for a guard and his strength is through the roof.

**5 — David Mackall**
*DE, 6-3, 240*
Mackall could develop into an impressive pass rusher coming off the edge.

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

# BOSTON COLLEGE EAGLES

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Northeastern | |
| S.12 | Kent State | 21-0 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.19** | **@CLEMSON** | **21-27** |
| First-year coach Frank Spaziani is looking to get off to a good start in the Eagles' first ACC game of the season. A win here would help gain valuable momentum and confidence. | | |
| S.26 | Wake Forest | 24-21 |
| 0.3 | Florida State | 27-17 |
| 0.10 | @VIRGINIA TECH | 12-30 |
| 0.17 | N.C. State | 38-31 |
| 0.24 | @NOTRE DAME | 17-0 |
| 0.31 | Central Michigan | |
| N.14 | @VIRGINIA | |
| N.21 | North Carolina | 24-45 |
| N.28 | @MARYLAND | 28-21 |

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE D+

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Eagles lack experience at key positions.
- Frank Spaziani is the team's third head coach in four seasons.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 15 | Dominique Davis (6-4, 198, So.) |
| RB | 41 | Montel Harris (5-10, 192, So.) |
| FB | 36 | James McCluskey (6-2, 246, Jr.) |
| LOT | 74 | Anthony Costanzo (6-7, 287, Jr.) |
| LOG | 64 | Nick Rossi (6-6, 290, Sr.) |
| C | 78 | Thomas Claiborne (6-3, 323, Jr.) |
| ROG | 75 | Nathan Richman (6-6, 284, So.) |
| ROT | 66 | Rich Lapham (6-8, 322, Jr.) |
| TE | 87 | Lars Anderson (6-3, 248, So.) |
| WR | 18 | Rich Gunnell (5-11, 196, Sr.) |
| WR | 82 | Justin Jarvis (6-5, 196, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 98 | Alex Albright (6-5, 245, Jr.) |
| LDT | 96 | Kaleb Ramsey (6-3, 256, So.) |
| RDT | 55 | Damik Scafe (6-3, 293, Jr.) |
| RDE | 86 | Jim Ramella (6-4, 243, Sr.) |
| SLB | 94 | Mark Herzlich (6-4, 238, Sr.) |
| MLB | 50 | Will Thompson (6-1, 235, So.) |
| WLB | 54 | Nick Clancy (6-3, 217, Fr.) |
| LCB | 4 | Donnie Fletcher (6-1, 186, So.) |
| RCB | 20 | Roderick Rollins (6-0, 188, Sr.) |
| FS | 45 | Wes Davis (6-1, 215, Jr.) |
| SS | 8 | Marty Bowman (6-2, 217, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 83 | Steve Aponavicius (5-10, 198, Sr.) |
| P | 46 | Ryan Quigley (6-3, 180, So.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-5
**ACC:** 5-3
*(lost to Vanderbilt in the Music City Bowl, 16-14)*

**Coach:** Frank Spaziani
1st year (1-0)
**Career record:** 1-0 (FBS)
**Offensive coordinator:**
Gary Tranquill (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Bill McGovern (1st year)

**Stadium:** Alumni Stadium (44,500)
**Tickets:** 617-552-4522
**Site:** Chestnut Hill, Mass.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.bceagles.com

CLIFF WELCH / ICON SMI

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

| | |
|---|---|
| '04 | 9 |
| '05 | 9 |
| '06 | 10 |
| '07 | 11 |
| '08 | 9 |

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

Because Frank Spaziani was loyal as the defensive coordinator at Boston College for the last 10 years, he is the new Eagles coach.

Unfortunately, a number of key ingredients to the program's success did leave, which raises doubts about the 2009 season.

Jeff Jagodzinski, who proceeded to win two straight Atlantic Division titles, left over the winter following a squabble with athletics director Gene DeFilippo. The two engaged in a battle of wills after Jagodzinski interviewed for the head-coaching position with the New York Jets.

Jagodzinski was dismissed after serving two years of his five-year contract, and is now the offensive coordinator of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

But if Jagodzinski hadn't left, Spaziani wouldn't have ascended to the head job. Now, Spaziani needs to find replacements for the players who made BC the surprise team of the ACC the past two seasons.

Though the defense must do without linebacker Brian Toal and safety Paul Anderson, its two biggest losses are All-ACC tackles Ron Brace and B.J. Raji. With them, the Eagles ranked fifth in the nation in total defense.

But Spaziani's defense is far from depleted. Senior linebacker Mark Herzlich was named the ACC's Defensive Player of the Year last season after making 110 tackles. The return of junior end Alex Albright, who missed last season with a neck injury, should also help.

However, it's the Eagles' offense that will feel the sting of the departure of Jagodzinski because last year's offensive coordinator, Steve Logan, also left to become the running backs coach for the NFL Buccaneers.

So the Eagles will look to new coordinators Bill McGovern (defense) and Gary Tranquill (offense) to lead the team.

Tranquill will decide between Dominique Davis and Justin Tuggle at quarterback. Although Davis was erratic in his three starts late in the season, he was good enough to direct a game-winning TD at Wake Forest in the Eagles' drive for the division title.

Tuggle, a redshirt freshman, is the son of Jessie Tuggle, who played linebacker for the Atlanta Falcons for 14 seasons.

Whoever wins the quarterback derby will throw to one of the most reliable targets in the conference. Senior Rich Gunnell caught a team-high 49 passes last season for 551 yards and four touchdowns. Justin Jarvis, who is one of the larger receivers (6-5) so in vogue in college football, caught 25 passes last season for 274 yards and three touchdowns.

Running back Montel Harris wasted little time making his mark at Boston College last year, rushing for more yards (900) than any freshman in school history.

With Harris, the Eagles ranked fifth in the league last season in rushing offense (143.3 yards per game) and should be as productive this season with the return of All-ACC offensive tackle Anthony Costanzo.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***LARS ANDERSON, TE***

He proved he could make big catches in big games as a capable backup to senior Ryan Purvis last season.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Dillon Quinn**
*DT, 6-6, 295*
Quinn has the potential to play on either side of the ball, but his burst off the snap makes him an intriguing defensive prospect.

**2 — Jim Noel**
*CB, 6-3, 180*
Noel has a knack for making plays in the secondary, and he could get a shot to prove that early in his college career.

**3 — Andre Lawrence**
*LB, 6-1, 196*
Lawrence will need to bulk up before he's ready to contribute. But when he does, his speed and size will set him apart on the field.

**4 — Luke Kuechly**
*LB, 6-3, 220*
Kuechly isn't the fastest or strongest linebacker, but he's instinctive, smart and offers a lot of production.

**5 — Rolandan Finch**
*RB, 5-10, 204*
Many expected Finch to play for either Kentucky or Louisville, so it came as a surprise when he made the call for the Eagles.

ACC COASTAL PRESEASON RANK

# 1 VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

JASON WORILDS ▸ DE

TOP 25 PICK

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.5** | **Alabama*** | |
| This season opener against the SEC power will go a long way toward determining whether Virginia Tech is a national contender or just one of the top teams in the ACC. | | |
| **S.12** | Marshall | |
| **S.19** | Nebraska | 35-30 |
| **S.26** | Miami (FL) | 14-16 |
| **0.3** | @DUKE | 14-3 |
| **0.10** | Boston College | 30-12 |
| **0.17** | @GEORGIA TECH | 20-17 |
| **0.29** | North Carolina | 20-17 |
| **N.5** | @EAST CAROLINA | 22-27 |
| **N.14** | @MARYLAND | 23-13 |
| **N.21** | N.C. State | |
| **N.28** | @VIRGINIA | 17-14 |

** at Atlanta, GA*

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» ORANGE BOWL

BCS BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ A-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Solid on offensive, defensive lines.
- Don't bet against Frank Beamer.

As they stood on the sideline during the Orange Bowl, Stephan Virgil told Brandon Flowers he had something for him.

On the next series, Virgil snared an interception in the end zone that negated a Cincinnati scoring threat and led to a go-ahead field goal for Virginia Tech just before halftime.

"That's for you," current Virginia Tech cornerback Virgil says he told Flowers, the former Hokie-turned-Kansas City Chief.

That's how Virginia Tech's program is building upon itself as it becomes the pre-eminent power in the ACC. Led by Frank Beamer and one of the game's most stable coaching staffs, the Hokies have won two of the four ACC championship games (in three appearances) since the conference expanded to 12 schools.

Along with Texas and USC, Tech is one of just three schools with at least 10 wins in each of the last five seasons. As standout players leave for the NFL, their successors vow to continue the winning ways.

"They preach a lot about tradition here," Virgil says. "That's what winning football is. It's about tradition. The guys before us, to see how they did it and how hard they worked to get where they did—that's what we're looking forward to doing this year."

After defeating Cincinnati 20-7 in the Orange Bowl last season to finish 10-4, the Hokies are in position for double-digit wins and a run at their third straight conference title in Beamer's 23rd season.

They have one of the ACC's most athletic quarterbacks in Tyrod Taylor, now free from his on-and-off competition with Sean Glennon to become the leader of the 2009 team.

Darren Evans leads a group of running backs that boasts depth, versatility and talent. And end Jason Worilds gives the Hokies the marquee pass rusher that college defensive coordinators crave.

Taylor (738 rushing yards, 1,036 passing yards) will lead the offense and needs to improve as a passer. He completed just 57.2 percent of his attempts last season and threw for two touchdowns with seven interceptions.

But after spending two seasons alternating with Glennon, who was a senior last year, Taylor seems to be settling in as the Hokies' leader. Beamer has said, even while using both players, that he preferred a one-quarterback system.

G. NEWMAN LOWRANCE / GETTY IMAGES

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

Tyrod Taylor

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | 103.25 | 173-99-7 | 57.2 | 1036 | 2 | 86.3 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Darren Evans | 14 | 287 | 1265 | 4.4 | 11 | 90.4 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Danny Coale | 13 | 36 | 408 | 11.3 | 0 | 31.4 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cody Grimm | 14 | 45 | 26 | 71 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jason Worilds | 13 | 8 | 66 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stephan Virgil | 6 | 94 | 15.7 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 10-4
**ACC:** 5-3
*(beat Cincinnati in the Orange Bowl, 20-7)*

**Coach:** Frank Beamer
23rd year (177-89-2)
**Career record:** 119-112-4
**Offensive coordinator:**
Bryan Stinespring (4th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Bud Foster (15th year)

**Stadium:** Lane Stadium (65,115)
**Tickets:** 540-231-6731
**Site:** Blacksburg
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.hokiesports.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 5 | Tyrod Taylor (6-1, 216, Jr.) |
| | 12 | Ju-Ju Clayton (6-0, 215, Fr.) |
| FB | 42 | Kenny Jefferson (5-9, 220, Sr.) |
| | 31 | Kenny Younger (5-11, 214, Jr.) |
| RB | 32 | Darren Evans (6-0, 213, So.) |
| | 25 | Josh Oglesby (5-11, 207, So.) |
| LOT | 77 | Ed Wang (6-5, 301, Sr.) |
| | 54 | Nick Becton (6-5, 292, Fr.) |
| LOG | 70 | Sergio Render (6-3, 319, Sr.) |
| | 75 | Greg Nosal (6-6, 285, So.) |
| C | 60 | Beau Warren (6-3, 277, Jr.) |
| | 67 | Michael Via (6-6, 277, Fr.) |
| ROG | 68 | Jaymes Brooks (6-2, 300, So.) |
| | 57 | Vinston Painter (6-5, 310, Fr.) |
| ROT | 62 | Blake DeChristopher (6-5, 303, So.) |
| | 72 | Andrew Lanier (6-5, 274, So.) |
| TE | 8 | Greg Boone (6-3, 287, Sr.) |
| | 33 | Chris Drager (6-3, 239, So.) |
| WR | 81 | Jarrett Boykin (6-2, 213, So.) |
| | 35 | Austin Fuller (6-2, 207, Fr.) |
| WR | 19 | Danny Coale (6-0, 205, So.) |
| | 11 | Dyrell Roberts (6-1, 192, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 6 | Jason Worilds (6-2, 240, Jr.) |
| | 47 | Nekos Brown (6-2, 252, Sr.) |
| LDT | 56 | Demetrius Taylor (6-0, 262, Sr.) |
| | 93 | Kwamaine Battle (6-0, 283, So.) |
| RDT | 95 | Cordarrow Thompson (6-2, 308, Sr.) |
| | 98 | Antoine Hopkins (6-2, 295, Fr.) |
| RDE | 91 | John Graves (6-3, 275, Jr.) |
| | 54 | Isaiah Hamlette (6-4, 242, Fr.) |
| SLB | 41 | Cam Martin (6-1, 215, Sr.) |
| | 26 | Cody Grimm (5-11, 202, Sr.) |
| MLB | 52 | Barquell Rivers (6-0, 230, So.) |
| | 46 | Bruce Taylor (6-2, 251, Fr.) |
| WLB | 36 | Jake Johnson (6-1, 229, So.) |
| | 38 | Quillie Odom (6-1, 225, So.) |
| LCB | 21 | Rashad Carmichael (5-10, 192, Jr.) |
| | 9 | Cris Hill (5-11, 185, So.) |
| RCB | 22 | Stephan Virgil (5-11, 189, Sr.) |
| | 15 | Eddie Whitley (6-0, 187, So.) |
| FS | 17 | Kam Chancellor (6-4, 226, Sr.) |
| | 14 | Lorenzo Williams (6-2, 212, So.) |
| SS | 24 | Dorian Porch (5-11, 212, Sr.) |
| | 2 | Davon Morgan (6-0, 196, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 80 | Matt Waldron (5-11, 190, Sr.) |
| P | 97 | Brent Bowden (6-3, 201, Sr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | VT | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 309 | 234 |
| Points Per Game | 22.1 | 16.7 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 243 | 192 |
| Rushing | 135 | 78 |
| Passing | 84 | 104 |
| Penalty | 24 | 10 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2441 | 1462 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2853 | 1883 |
| Yards lost rushing | 412 | 421 |
| Rushing Attempts | 645 | 451 |
| Average Per Rush | 3.8 | 3.2 |
| Average Per Game | 174.4 | 104.4 |
| TDs Rushing | 23 | 12 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 1807 | 2450 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 291-167-12 | 343-181-20 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.2 | 7.1 |
| Average Per Catch | 10.8 | 13.5 |
| Average Per Game | 129.1 | 175.0 |
| TDs Passing | 6 | 12 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4248 | 3912 |
| Total Plays | 936 | 794 |
| Average Per Play | 4.5 | 4.9 |
| Average Per Game | 303.4 | 279.4 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 46-947 | 62-1206 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 27-242 | 24-298 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 20-335 | 12-76 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | VT | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 20.6 | 19.5 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 9.0 | 12.4 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 16.8 | 6.3 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 18-8 | 31-14 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 70-485 | 85-743 |
| Average Per Game | 34.6 | 53.1 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 72-2808 | 72-2935 |
| Average Per Punt | 39.0 | 40.8 |
| Net punt average | 33.2 | 34.3 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 33:00 | 27:00 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 80/211 | 53/173 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 38% | 31% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 6/16 | 6/17 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 38% | 35% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 35-270 | 42-224 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | -7 |
| TDS SCORED | 34 | 27 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 23-29 | 15-21 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 32-34 | 23-25 |
| ATTENDANCE | 397398 | 318472 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/66233 | 5/63694 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 3/66566 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Virginia Tech | 60 | 104 | 73 | 72 | 309 |
| Opponent | 38 | 80 | 53 | 63 | 234 |

Now he's got it with Taylor at the helm.

"He's a leader," Beamer says. "Just the way he goes about things, he's a leader. He's been a little more vocal at times this spring, and we want him to. He understands, this is his football team, and [he needs to] go lead us and help our football team win."

Virginia Tech's offensive line appears to be in good shape with returning tackles Ed Wang and Blake DeChristopher and left guard Sergio Render, a second-team All-ACC selection who sat out spring practice recovering from shoulder surgery.

Winning the job at center is three-time starter Beau Warren. He'll join right guard Jaymes Brooks, who filled in at the Orange Bowl last year for academically ineligible Nick Marshman. Also returning is tight end Greg Boone, a big target who has also been effective bowling over defenders in the Hokies' "Wild Turkey" direct-snap sets.

Evans (1,265 rushing yards, 11 TDs) is a straight-ahead runner who headlines a strong group of running backs. Josh Oglesby is a slasher and Ryan Williams excels at making potential tacklers miss in the open field.

On defense, the line has a big playmaker in Worilds, who's coming back from a shoulder surgery that kept him out of spring practice. Cordarrow Thompson, John Graves, Nekos Brown and Demetrius Taylor give the Hokies experience up front, although Graves' position at tackle was uncertain in spring practice as coaches tested him at end.

The secondary appears solid as Virgil replaces departed All-ACC selection Victor Harris. Kam Chancellor is back at safety and also provides leadership on defense.

This team does have question marks. Beamer needs to develop a reliable backup quarterback, and a young group of receivers must improve. Either Jake Johnson or Quillie Odom needs to seize control at the weakside linebacker position, and Matt Waldron needs to win the kicking job.

But if history is any indication, Beamer and his staff will get these things figured out in time to take their shot at another 10-win season. And the Hokies' success will just keep building on itself.

## RECRUITING REPORT

This is a pretty typical class for Frank Beamer and the program he has built over the years. Of the 22 prospects in this group, 17 come from the Hokies' home state. They did all of their damage recruiting the Eastern Seaboard, and that's a trend that isn't likely to change.

This class is characterized by the versatility of many of the prospects in it, as well as all of the incoming defensive talent that coordinator Bud Foster will have to work with in the coming years.

**Lanford Collins, James Gayle** and **Duan Perez-Means** are all talented prospects at defensive end who should contribute after they spend some time in the weight room. At defensive back, **Jayron Hosley** and **Jerrodd Williams** are big-time talents who should help continue Tech's tradition of producing great players in the secondary.

**Antone Exum** and **Theron Norman** are versatile athletes with sturdy builds who could be plugged in at numerous positions. Tight end **Logan Thomas** was the top-ranked prospect at his position. At 6-6 and 233 pounds, Thomas could be an immediate-impact guy.

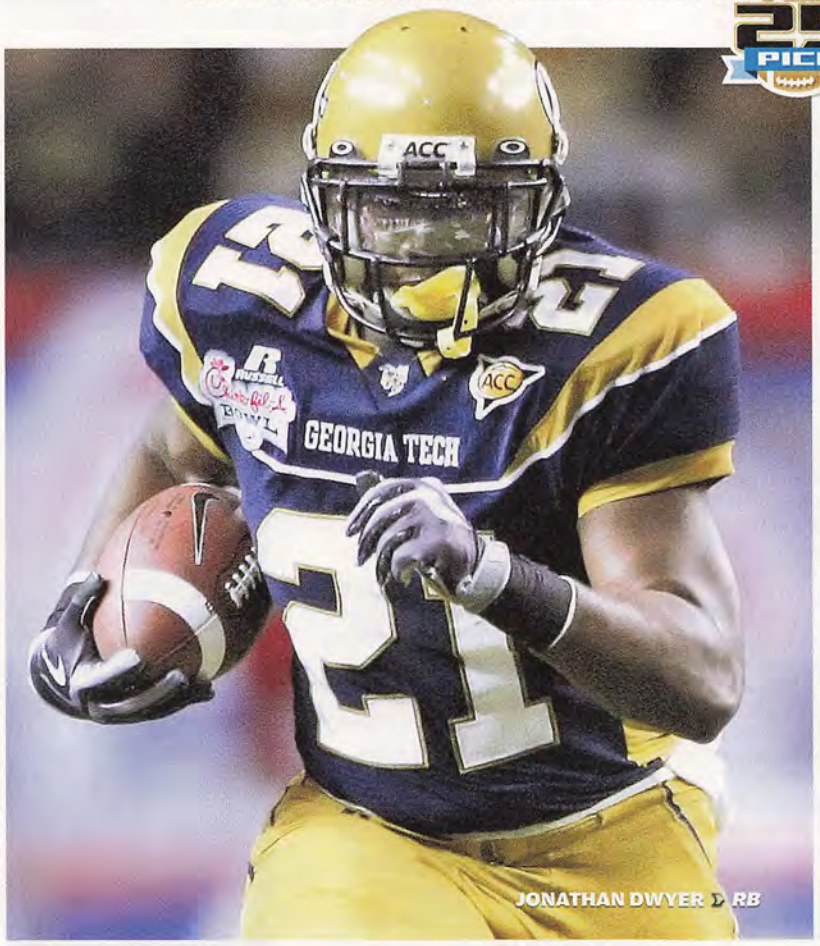
*—Mike Farrell,* Rivals.com

## THE NEXT BIG THING *RYAN WILLIAMS, RB*

The redshirt freshman scampered 80 yards for a touchdown on his first carry in his first spring scrimmage. At 5-9, 205, Williams is a speedy running back who gives the Hokies a different appearance from powerful starter Darren Evans.

# 2 GEORGIA TECH YELLOW JACKETS

TOP 25 PICK




JONATHAN DWYER ▸ RB

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Jacksonville State | 41-14 |
| S.10 | Clemson | 21-17 |
| S.17 | @MIAMI (FL) | 41-23 |
| S.26 | North Carolina | 7-28 |
| 0.3 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | 38-7 |
| 0.10 | @FLORIDA STATE | 31-28 |

### GAME TO WATCH

**0.17 Virginia Tech 17-20**

The two Coastal Division favorites face off as coach Paul Johnson matches wits with clever Virginia Tech defensive coordinator Bud Foster.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0.24 | @VIRGINIA | 17-24 |
| 0.31 | @VANDERBILT | |
| N.7 | Wake Forest | |
| N.14 | @DUKE | 27-0 |
| N.28 | Georgia | 45-42 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** MIDDLE TIER BOWL

» MUSIC CITY BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ A-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Jonathan Dwyer leads a talented backfield.
- The secondary is among the ACC's best.

Running back Jonathan Dwyer plans to be better this fall.

That's bad news for the rest of the ACC, and perhaps the rest of the nation.

Dwyer, who rushed for a conference-high 1,395 yards, was named the ACC's Player of the Year last season after leading Georgia Tech to a 9-4 record. His rare blend of speed and power fits well into second-year coach Paul Johnson's flexbone offense.

Dwyer believes his stamina will be top-notch now that he is 10 pounds lighter, carrying 228 pounds on his 6-0 frame. Dywer says he has improved his footwork, quickness and agility while becoming a better pass blocker.

His personal improvement is just one reason the Yellow Jackets will be a threat to opponents this season. Georgia Tech returns nine starters on offense and eight more on defense, and the players are setting their sights high.

"We want to be a national championship contender," Dwyer says. "We want to win the ACC championship and live up to the hype and show everybody last year wasn't a fluke."

The "fluke" argument is the most common reason cited by those predicting a drop-off for Georgia Tech. When Johnson arrived in Atlanta after six seasons at Navy (and preceded by five at Georgia Southern), some said the option game wouldn't work as well in the ACC as it had against defenses with less talent.

Johnson and Georgia Tech rendered that argument moot last season as the Yellow Jackets ranked fourth in the Football Bowl Subdivision with 273.2 rushing yards per game.

In 2008, 37 of 40 Jackets touchdowns were scored by freshmen or sophomores. So with youth on its side, Georgia Tech should remain a top contender for the Coastal Division title this season. But the doubters are predicting that opposing coaches will have adjusted to the Yellow Jackets' offense after being exposed to it last year.

Those doubts are fueled by LSU's 38-3 thrashing of Georgia Tech in the Chick-fil-A Bowl last season. But the Tigers had more than three weeks to prepare for the flexbone, while opponents during the season will get just one week.

"People will get better at defending it," Johnson says. "We're going to get better at running it, too. We didn't run it very well last year, I don't think. It will be move, counter-move. That's what football is."

The talented backfield will be the focus of most opposing defenses. Dwyer is joined by Roddy Jones, who rushed for 690 yards last season. Georgia Tech has also added Louisville transfer Anthony Allen, who totaled 1,102 rushing yards in his previous two seasons with the Cardinals.

TODD KIRKLAND / ICON SMI

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

Josh Nesbitt

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | 96.32 | 123-54-5 | 43.9 | 808 | 2 | 73.5 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jonathan Dwyer | 13 | 200 | 1395 | 7.0 | 12 | 107.3 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Demaryius Thomas | 12 | 39 | 627 | 16.1 | 3 | 52.3 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morgan Burnett | 13 | 62 | 31 | 93 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Derrick Morgan | 13 | 7 | 50 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morgan Burnett | 7 | 95 | 13.6 | 1 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-4
**ACC:** 5-3
*(lost to LSU in the Chick-fil-A Bowl, 38-3)*

**Coach:** Paul Johnson
2nd year (9-4)
**Career record:** 116-43
**Offensive coordinator:**
Paul Johnson (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Dave Wommack (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Bobby Dodd Stadium (55,000)
**Tickets:** 888-TECH-TIX
**Site:** Atlanta
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.ramblinwreck.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 9 | Josh Nesbitt (6-1, 214, Jr.) |
| | 11 | Jaybo Shaw (6-0, 190, So.) |
| RB | 36 | Lucas Cox (6-0, 238, Jr.) |
| | 27 | Jonathan Malone (5-9, 167, Sr.) |
| RB | 20 | Roddy Jones (5-9, 194, So.) |
| | 3 | Marcus Wright (5-8, 175, So.) |
| RB | 21 | Jonathan Dwyer (6-0, 228, Jr.) |
| | 43 | Anthony Allen (6-0, 229, Jr.) |
| LOT | 75 | Nick Claytor (6-6, 304, So.) |
| | 60 | Brad Sellers (6-2, 252, Sr.) |
| LOG | 71 | Cord Howard (6-5, 310, Sr.) |
| | 74 | Zach Krish (6-5, 286, Jr.) |
| C | 77 | Dan Voss (6-4, 294, Sr.) |
| | 79 | Sean Bedford (6-1, 268, Jr.) |
| ROG | 70 | Joseph Gilbert (6-4, 288, So.) |
| | 62 | Omoregie Uzzi (6-3, 291, Fr.) |
| ROT | 73 | Austin Barrick (6-3, 254, Jr.) |
| | 78 | Clyde Yandell (6-5, 296, So.) |
| WR | 15 | Correy Earls (6-0, 190, Jr.) |
| | 81 | Zach Fisher (6-2, 193, So.) |
| WR | 8 | Demaryius Thomas (6-3, 229, Jr.) |
| | 84 | Tyler Melton (6-0, 199, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 97 | Robert Hall (6-3, 248, Jr.) |
| | 41 | Anthony Egbuniwe (6-4, 253, Jr.) |
| LDT | 98 | Ben Anderson (6-2, 271, Jr.) |
| | 96 | Logan Walls (6-2, 287, So.) |
| RDT | 66 | Luke Snider (6-0, 218, Jr.) |
| | 90 | TJ Barnes (6-7, 325, Fr.) |
| RDE | 91 | Derrick Morgan (6-4, 270, Jr.) |
| | 92 | Jason Peters (6-4, 272, So.) |
| SLB | 54 | Sedric Griffin (5-11, 239, Sr.) |
| | 12 | Anthony Barnes (6-3, 231, Jr.) |
| MLB | 51 | Brad Jefferson (6-2, 227, Jr.) |
| | 56 | Osahon Tongo (6-3, 252, Jr.) |
| WLB | 59 | Kyle Jackson (6-0, 226, So.) |
| | 44 | Albert Rocker (6-1, 225, So.) |
| LCB | 28 | Rashaad Reid (5-10, 180, So.) |
| | 37 | Jerrard Tarrant (6-0, 193, r-So.) |
| RCB | 2 | Mario Butler (6-1, 181, Jr.) |
| | 25 | DeRon Jasper (6-2, 198, Jr.) |
| FS | 22 | Cooper Taylor (6-4, 195, So.) |
| | 26 | Dominique Reese (5-11, 178, Jr.) |
| SS | 1 | Morgan Burnett (6-1, 198, Jr.) |
| | 46 | Mario Edwards (6-1, 210, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 14 | Scott Blair (6-0, 173, Jr.) |
| P | 14 | Scott Blair (6-0, 173, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | GT | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 317 | 264 |
| Points Per Game | 24.4 | 20.3 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 214 | 224 |
| Rushing | 151 | 89 |
| Passing | 54 | 122 |
| Penalty | 9 | 13 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 3552 | 1564 |
| Yards gained rushing | 3847 | 1951 |
| Yards lost rushing | 295 | 387 |
| Rushing Attempts | 640 | 432 |
| Average Per Rush | 5.6 | 3.6 |
| Average Per Game | 273.2 | 120.3 |
| TDs Rushing | 32 | 13 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 1290 | 2512 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 165-74- | 415-246-18 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.8 | 6.1 |
| Average Per Catch | 17.4 | 10.2 |
| Average Per Game | 99.2 | 193.2 |
| TDs Passing | 5 | 20 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4842 | 4076 |
| Total Plays | 805 | 847 |
| Average Per Play | 6.0 | 4.8 |
| Average Per Game | 372.5 | 313.5 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 45-883 | 55-1094 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 27-182 | 15-147 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 18-245 | 7-28 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | GT | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 19.6 | 19.9 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 6.7 | 9.8 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 13.6 | 4.0 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 36-20 | 23-11 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 63-570 | 58-487 |
| Average Per Game | 43.8 | 37.5 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 47-1845 | 65-2588 |
| Average Per Punt | 39.3 | 39.8 |
| Net punt average | 33.1 | 35.5 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 30:31 | 29:29 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 59/161 | 72/189 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 37% | 38% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 12/28 | 10/25 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 43% | 40% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 34-252 | 19-106 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 40 | 33 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 12-20 | 11-14 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 33-35 | 31-31 |
| ATTENDANCE | 332420 | 339585 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/47489 | 5/67917 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/71423 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Georgia Tech | 74 | 94 | 77 | 72 | 317 |
| Opponent | 37 | 92 | 52 | 83 | 264 |

Josh Nesbitt (693 rushing yards) may be the most dangerous running quarterback in a conference loaded with talented signal-callers, despite completing just 43.9 percent of his passes with five interceptions and two touchdowns last season.

However, Johnson says Nesbitt has made significant improvement since last summer.

"It's like night and day from a year ago," says Johnson of Nesbitt. "I think he'll just continue to get better the more he plays. We've certainly got to work on our passing game some, but it's not just Josh. It's protection and routes, and all those things."

Nesbitt will throw to a big-time wide receiver in Demaryius Thomas (39 catches, 627 yards). The Yellow Jackets don't have a lot of depth at wideout, but they don't throw the ball often, either, so it shouldn't hurt their game.

After losing tackles Andrew Gardner (All-ACC honoree) and David Brown from last year's team, the offensive line is shaky. Center Dan Voss and second-team All-ACC guard Cord Howard return to lead a unit that struggled last season.

Led by second-team All-America safety Morgan Burnett (7 INTs), the secondary should be the strength of the defense.

Cornerback Rashaad Reid and safety Cooper Taylor also return, while Jerrard Tarrant was one of the most impressive players in spring practice after missing last season with a suspension.

The defensive line lost three outstanding players in Michael Johnson, Vance Walker and Darryl Richard, but still returns end Derrick Morgan, who made seven sacks in '08.

Dwyer says the excitement on campus over football is obvious. He adds that the team has developed the confidence to be a national championship contender.

"That's just the confidence you have to have after having the season we had last year," he says. "Our expectations are higher and we realize we have the opportunity after last season, being a ranked team. We realize all you have to do is win games and you'll end up being up there [in the national championship hunt]."

## RECRUITING REPORT

Many people had their doubts about Paul Johnson's ability to recruit top-flight talent to play in his triple-option offense, and it appears as though he is answering those critics this year with one of the ACC's top recruiting classes.

Fourteen of Tech's 21 prospects from the class of 2009 come from Georgia, and plenty of these young men should be excellent fits for what Johnson is trying to do in Atlanta.

Quarterback **Jordan Luallen** and athlete **David Sims** will have the opportunity to get snaps under center, and both can run the option well. At running back, **Daniel Drummond** and **Orwin Smith** appear to be good fits in this offense.

The Tech defense will receive an influx of talent as well. Ends **Izaan Cross** and **Chris Crenshaw** are impressive athletes, and four-star tackle **J.C. Lanier** is the highest-ranked incoming freshman for the Yellow Jackets.

Four other ends should also help bolster the defensive line, while three incoming offensive linemen should aid Johnson in running his offense well in the coming years.

*—Mike Farrell,* Rivals.com

## THE NEXT BIG THING *JERRARD TARRANT, CB*

The sophomore regularly shut down receivers in the spring after serving a suspension in 2008 and redshirting his freshman season in 2007. Even though Georgia Tech has a strong secondary, Tarrant will make a big impact.

# 3 NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS

Linebacker Zach Brown's 40-yard dash this spring was so fast the North Carolina coaches made him do it again.

Surely, they thought, the timer made an error. Brown had been timed at 4.28 seconds. As it turned out, there was no mistake.

The second time, with four strength coaches timing him, he ran it in 4.26 seconds. His teammates erupted in excitement after the time was announced.

"He's 230 pounds and doing that," says quarterback T.J. Yates in astonishment of his teammate's speed. "That's scary."

Brown's feat illustrates the way third-year coach Butch Davis is building the Tar Heels in the mold of the Miami program where he served as a defensive assistant under Jimmy Johnson in the 1980s and as head coach from 1995 to 2000.

North Carolina's defense is filled with speedsters who will strengthen the unit. Brown's emergence allows 2008 leading tackler Quan Sturdivant to move from the weak side to the middle at linebacker. At strongside linebacker, the Tar Heels have junior Bruce Carter, who demonstrated his speed on special teams by blocking five kicks in '08.

"When you hear all around the country about Florida and other teams like that with speed, we're starting to get to that level with speed," junior free safety Deunta Williams says.

And on offense, the Tar Heels resemble the old Hurricanes with a pro-style attack that will focus on spreading the ball to tight ends and backs as well as receivers.

This wasn't necessary the last two seasons, as North Carolina had one of the best groups of wideouts in the ACC. With Hakeem Nicks, Brooks Foster and Brandon Tate gone to the NFL, the Tar Heels will rely on a new set of wide receivers in Dwight Jones, Greg Little and Josh Adams.

Yates, who will be in charge of spreading the ball, is hoping for his first healthy season. As a freshman two years ago, he set a few of the school's single-season records with 2,655 passing yards and 14 touchdowns despite a shoulder injury that required surgery. In 2008, he missed six games with a fractured ankle.

Still, the coaches told Yates during spring practices that his mechanics have improved, and he is encouraged by the program's progress under Davis.

Even the week after North Carolina won the NCAA basketball championship, Yates says people walked up to him on campus and asked him about how the football team is doing.

"Even though we just won [in basketball], there's still people talking about next season, how next year's [football] team is going to look," Yates says.

It should look good, although there are areas that need help. The right side of the offensive line, manned by guard Alan Pelc and tackle Mike Ingersoll, is a concern.

Returning defensive-line starters Cam Thomas, Marvin Austin, E.J. Wilson and Robert Quinn combined for just five sacks last year, and that number needs to increase.

DEUNTA WILLIAMS ▸ S

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***JONATHAN COOPER, G***

Cooper is smart and fast, and he'll compete with senior Aaron Stahl for the starting spot at left guard in 2009. Even quarterback T.J. Yates predicts an All-ACC future for the redshirt frosh.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5
**ACC:** 4-4
*(lost to West Virginia in the Meineke Car Care Bowl, 31-30)*

**Coach:** Butch Davis
3rd year (12-13)
**Career record:** 63-33
**Offensive coordinator:**
John Shoop (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Everett Withers (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Kenan Memorial Stadium (60,000)
**Tickets:** 800-722-HEEL
**Site:** Chapel Hill
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.tarheelblue.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

TOP 25 PICK

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Citadel | |
| S.12 | @CONNECTICUT | 38-12 |
| S.19 | East Carolina | |
| S.26 | @GEORGIA TECH | 28-7 |
| 0.3 | Virginia | 13-16 (OT) |
| 0.10 | Georgia Southern | |
| 0.22 | Florida State | |
| 0.29 | @VIRGINIA TECH | 17-20 |
| N.7 | Duke | 28-20 |
| N.14 | Miami (FL) | 28-24 |
| N.21 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | 45-24 |
| N.28 | @N.C. STATE | 10-41 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.19 East Carolina**

The C-USA defending champion Pirates edged North Carolina two years ago and could get the Tar Heels' season off to a sour start if they do it again.

## BOWL PROJECTION

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

» CHICK-FIL-A BOWL

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE B+

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Defense is fast and experienced.
- T.J. Yates will miss three wideouts drafted by the NFL.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 13 | T.J. Yates (6-3, 215, Jr.) |
| FB | 4 | Bobby Rome (5-11, 245, Sr.) |
| RB | 20 | Shaun Draughn (6-0, 205, Jr.) |
| LOT | 72 | Kyle Jolly (6-6, 300, Sr.) |
| LOG | 73 | Aaron Stahl (6-2, 290, Sr.) |
| C | 69 | Lowell Dyer (6-4, 290, Sr.) |
| ROG | 70 | Alan Pelc (6-6, 325, Jr.) |
| ROT | 66 | Mike Ingersoll (6-5, 300, Jr.) |
| TE | 17 | Zack Pianalto (6-4, 250, Jr.) |
| WR | 8 | Greg Little (6-3, 220, Jr.) |
| WR | 83 | Dwight Jones (6-4, 220, So.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 92 | E.J. Wilson (6-3, 280, Sr.) |
| LDT | 9 | Marvin Austin (6-3, 300, Jr.) |
| RDT | 93 | Cam Thomas (6-3, 330, Sr.) |
| RDE | 42 | Robert Quinn (6-5, 260, So.) |
| SLB | 54 | Bruce Carter (6-3, 230, Jr.) |
| MLB | 52 | Quan Sturdivant (6-2, 235, Jr.) |
| WLB | 47 | Zach Brown (6-2, 230, So.) |
| LCB | 16 | Kendric Burney (5-9, 185, Jr.) |
| RCB | 23 | Jordan Hemby (5-10, 185, Sr.) |
| FS | 27 | Deunta Williams (6-2, 205, Jr.) |
| SS | 21 | Da'Norris Searcy (6-0, 200, Jr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 11 | Casey Barth (5-11, 170, So.) |
| P | 39 | Grant Schallock (6-7, 225, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 Donte Moss**
*DE, 6-4, 235*
Moss has the potential to be the best pass rusher in Chapel Hill since Julius Peppers.

**2 Jheranie Boyd**
*WR, 6-2, 184*
Boyd is a stretch-the-field receiver the team needs. The track star has good size, but his strength is his speed.

**3 Donavan Tate**
*ATH, 6-2, 205*
Tate is one of the best all-around athletes in the country—for both football and baseball.

**4 Bryn Renner**
*QB, 6-3, 192*
He is a smart, heady quarterback with good accuracy and a strong arm.

**5 Jared McAdoo**
*DT, 6-2, 285*
McAdoo has all the potential to be a star in college and beyond, and line coach John Blake will develop him nicely.

DAVID J. GRIFFIN / ICON SMI

# MIAMI HURRICANES 4

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.7 | @FLORIDA STATE | 39-41 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.17** | **Georgia Tech** | **23-41** |
| Miami will be itching for revenge after Georgia Tech's option game shut down the 'Canes last season. But they must be more disciplined on defense to win. | | |
| S.26 | @VIRGINIA TECH | 16-14 |
| 0.3 | Oklahoma | |
| 0.10 | Florida A&M | |
| 0.17 | @UCF | 20-14 |
| 0.24 | Clemson | |
| 0.31 | @WAKE FOREST | 16-10 |
| N.7 | Virginia | 24-17 (OT) |
| N.14 | @NORTH CAROLINA | 24-28 |
| N.21 | Duke | 49-31 |
| N.28 | @SOUTH FLORIDA | |

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL

» HUMANITARIAN BOWL

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE B-

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

» Quarterback Jacory Harris will shine under new offensive coordinator.

» Linebacker Sean Spence leads a defense that's deep and fast.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 12 | Jacory Harris (6-4, 190, So.) |
| FB | 30 | Patrick Hill (5-9, 260, Sr.) |
| RB | 2 | Graig Cooper (6-0, 202, Jr.) |
| LOT | 64 | Jason Fox (6-7, 310, Sr.) |
| LOG | 74 | Orlando Franklin (6-7, 334, Jr.) |
| C | 70 | AJ Trump (6-3, 308, Sr.) |
| ROG | 61 | Joel Figueroa (6-5, 335, Jr.) |
| ROT | 65 | Matt Pipho (6-7, 307, Sr.) |
| TE | 84 | Richard Gordon (6-4, 270, Sr.) |
| WR | 4 | Aldarius Johnson (6-2, 205, So.) |
| WR | 3 | Travis Benjamin (5-10, 170, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 94 | Eric Moncur (6-2, 255, Sr.) |
| LDT | 57 | Allen Bailey (6-4, 290, Jr.) |
| RDT | 91 | Joe Joseph (6-3, 302, Sr.) |
| RDE | 56 | Marcus Robinson (6-1, 242, So.) |
| SLB | 11 | Arthur Brown (6-2, 220, Fr.) |
| MLB | 31 | Sean Spence (6-0, 211, Fr.) |
| WLB | 50 | Darryl Sharpton (5-11, 235, Sr.) |
| LCB | 24 | Chavez Grant (5-11, 183, Sr.) |
| RCB | 13 | Ryan Hill (5-11, 205, Sr.) |
| FS | 6 | Randy Phillips (6-0, 210, Sr.) |
| SS | 29 | JoJo Nicolas (6-1, 197, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 25 | Matt Bosher (6-0, 205, Jr.) |
| P | 25 | Matt Bosher (6-0, 205, Jr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 7-6
**ACC:** 4-4
*(lost to California in the Emerald Bowl, 24-17)*

**Coach:** Randy Shannon
3rd year (12-13)
**Career record:** 12-13
**Offensive coordinator:**
Mark Whipple (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
John Lovett (1st year)

**Stadium:** Dolphin Stadium (76,500)
**Tickets:** 800-GO-CANES
**Site:** Coral Gables, Fla.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.hurricanesports.com

JASON FOX » LT

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

Before spring practice began, Miami left tackle Jason Fox sat in on some coaches meetings to get a read on new offensive coordinator Mark Whipple.

It didn't take long for Whipple to say what Fox wanted to hear. Whipple described how the Hurricanes' offense would be unbeatable because the team will learn ways around any defensive front or coverage.

"It's, 'You do what you do, and we'll do what we do. And we're going to beat you,'" Fox says. "That's basically his mentality, and we're trying to make it our offense's mentality right now."

Whipple and first-year defensive coordinator John Lovett have injected enthusiasm at Miami, which for the past few years has failed to live up to the program's rich heritage. The players, who have struggled to describe why the team has gone 19-19 over the past three seasons, hope coach Randy Shannon has found an answer in Whipple and Lovett after former offensive coordinator Patrick Nix was fired and defensive coordinator Bill Young left for Oklahoma State.

Now that quarterback Robert Marve has transferred, Jacory Harris will have the chance to develop under Whipple, who is coaching the position. Harris has the height (6-4) and arm to be a pro-style passer.

Miami has the tailbacks to thrive in a pro-style attack, as Graig Cooper rushed for 841 yards in '08.

Aldarius Johnson headlines a wide-receiving corps that has speed but no proven gamebreaker.

On defense, Lovett takes over after serving for two years as an assistant at North Carolina. His strength is getting players to understand their responsibilities.

"[Lovett] made things way easier for us," safety Randy Phillips says. "He likes to focus on simplifying things and running plays that we're going to be able to play fast, and everybody is going to know what they're doing."

Shannon's habit of rotating players on defense ensures talent, but few stand out. Sean Spence (7.5 tackles for loss) leads a group of linebackers that include Darryl Sharpton and Arthur Brown. Marcus Robinson, Joe Joseph, Allen Bailey and Eric Moncur all look like NFL prospects on the defensive line. The secondary was shaky last season, but Phillips is back from a knee injury, and former wide receiver Sam Shields could be an impact player at cornerback later in the year.

Fox says the Hurricanes are confident they have enough players to restore their status as a championship contender.

"We're Miami," Fox says. "We have a lot of talent at this school. We're always going to have talent. If we put it together the right way and things come together at the right moment, there are a lot of things that come in and factor to make a good team great.

"Every year I've been here we've gotten closer to accomplishing that goal. And hopefully this is our year."

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***MIKE JAMES, RB***

The freshman running back is behind two established veterans in Graig Cooper and Javarris James, but might be too good to keep off the field. James befuddled the defense during spring practice with his comprehensive understanding of the offense.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1**
**Ray Ray Armstrong**
*ATH, 6-4, 218*
Armstrong's versatility and athleticism made him the top-ranked athlete in the nation.

**2**
**Lamar Miller**
*RB, 5-11, 205*
The nation's top running back, Miller can break tackles and beat linebackers to the corner.

**3**
**Brandon McGee**
*CB, 5-11, 186*
McGee runs the 40-yard dash in 4.35 seconds and was ranked as the No. 10 corner in the nation as a senior.

**4**
**Brandon Washington**
*OG, 6-5, 330*
An imposing presence at guard, Washington is more ready to contribute than your average freshman.

**5**
**Dyron Dye**
*DE, 6-4, 215*
While Dye will need time to bulk up before he is ready to play, he's too talented to keep off the field for long.

RICHARD C LEWIS / ICON SMI

# 5 VIRGINIA CAVALIERS

Opponents will see some familiar faces at Virginia this season.

Jameel Sewell, who missed last season because he was academically ineligible, is back competing for the job at quarterback.

Ron Prince has returned to Al Groh's staff as special-teams coach after spending three seasons as Kansas State's head coach.

And Groh himself survived a 5-7 effort last year and returns for his ninth season as coach.

But a lot has changed too.

Virginia has four new assistant coaches. Gregg Brandon, the new offensive coordinator, has installed a spread offense different from the pro-style game Groh used early in his tenure with the Cavaliers.

Groh's son, Mike, stepped down as offensive coordinator after Virginia finished 114th nationally in scoring (16.1 points per game) in 2008.

Groh says having experienced quarterbacks should benefit the offense as it continues its conversion to a new scheme that began last spring.

"We came out of last spring [2008] with no quarterbacks who had started a college football game," Groh says. "We now have three quarterbacks who have started a college football game. So that certainly puts us well in advance of where we were a year ago."

Other playmakers will have to emerge, though, if Virginia's record is going to improve. Sophomore Jared Green's 12 catches for 144 yards last season are tops among the returning wide receivers.

The saving grace on offense should be a line that includes four returning starters. Will Barker, the senior right tackle who's emerged as a team leader, has made 37 starts in his career.

"We don't get all the credit," Barker says. "We just do our job and block. But I definitely think the offensive line can set the tempo and lead the way for the offense."

On defense, the loss of 2008 senior standouts Clint Sintim, Jon Copper and Antonio Appleby could be devastating. But senior Denzel Burrell (48 tackles) is back at linebacker, along with Aaron Clark, who won a starting job last year before suffering a knee injury in the opener against USC.

Aside from that, the Cavaliers don't have much experience at linebacker in a 3-4 scheme that emphasizes the position.

Virginia should boast a good defensive line with end Matt Conrath emerging as a standout and three strong options at nose tackle in Nate Collins, Nick Jenkins and John-Kevin Dolce.

The secondary is also in good shape, led by cornerback Ras-I Dowling and safety Corey Mosley.

Punter Jimmy Howell is back, and Groh says finding a reliable kicker is "critical" as sophomores Robert Randolph and Chris Hinkebein compete for the position.

The lack of proven talent at receiver and linebacker could make it hard for Groh to get this team to a bowl, but he has hope the new offense can provide a lift.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***RODNEY McLEOD, CB***

The sophomore played some at nickel back last season and wowed the coaches in the spring with his speed and take-charge attitude. Despite his lack of experience, he should be a leader on defense this season.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7
**ACC:** 3-5

**Coach:** Al Groh
9th year (56-44)
**Career record:** 82-84
**Offensive coordinator:**
Gregg Brandon (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Al Groh (9th year)

**Stadium:** Scott Stadium (61,500)
**Tickets:** 800-542-UVA1
**Site:** Charlottesville
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.virginiasports.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

| | |
|---|---|
| '04 | 8 |
| '05 | 7 |
| '06 | 5 |
| '07 | 8 |
| '08 | 5 |

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | William & Mary | |
| S.12 | TCU | |
| S.19 | @SOUTHERN MISS | |
| 0.3 | @NORTH CAROLINA | 16-13 (OT) |
| 0.10 | Indiana | |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **0.17** | **@Maryland** | **31-0** |
| This rivalry game against the Terrapins, who have lost some talent from last season, could shape the way Virginia's ACC season begins. | | |
| 0.24 | Georgia Tech | 24-17 |
| 0.31 | Duke | 3-31 |
| N.7 | @MIAMI (FL) | 17-24 (OT) |
| N.14 | Boston College | |
| N.21 | @CLEMSON | 3-13 |
| N.28 | Virginia Tech | 14-17 |

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE C

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Cavs thin at linebacker.
- Still seeking big playmaker on offense.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 10 | Jameel Sewell (6-3, 219, Sr.) |
| FB | 31 | Rashawn Jackson (6-1, 253, Sr.) |
| RB | 5 | Mikell Simpson (6-1, 200, Sr.) |
| LOT | 67 | Landon Bradley (6-7, 275, Fr.) |
| LOG | 63 | Austin Pasztor (6-7, 310, So.) |
| C | 64 | Jack Shields (6-5, 289, Jr.) |
| ROG | 65 | B.J. Cabbell (6-6, 304, Jr.) |
| ROT | 61 | Will Barker (6-7, 315, Sr.) |
| TE | 83 | Joe Torchia (6-6, 255, Jr.) |
| WR | 18 | Kris Burd (5-11, 189, So.) |
| WR | 84 | Jared Green (6-2, 178, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 95 | Kevin Crawford (6-3, 289, Sr.) |
| NT | 98 | Nate Collins (6-2, 280, Sr.) |
| RDE | 94 | Matt Conrath (6-7, 269, So.) |
| LOLB | 41 | Aaron Clark (6-5, 250, Sr.) |
| LILB | 42 | Darnell Carter (6-3, 244, Jr.) |
| RILB | 49 | Darren Childs (6-1, 233, Sr.) |
| ROLB | 45 | Denzel Burrell (6-4, 230, Sr.) |
| LCB | 4 | Vic Hall (5-9, 190, Sr.) |
| RCB | 19 | Ras-I Dowling (6-2, 200, Jr.) |
| FS | 17 | Brandon Woods (6-2, 211, Sr.) |
| SS | 40 | Corey Mosley (5-10, 197, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 30 | Robert Randolph (5-10, 160, So.) |
| P | 8 | Jimmy Howell (6-6, 238, So.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Morgan Moses**
*OT, 6-7, 347*
Moses is an imposing presence on the line and could be an immediate fixture if he shows up in shape.

**2 — Dominique Wallace**
*FB, 6-1, 231*
The No. 1 fullback in the nation as a senior, Wallace runs the 40-yard dash in 4.48 seconds.

**3 — Tim Smith**
*WR, 6-0, 182*
Smith has the hands, route-running ability and intangibles to make an early impact in Charlottesville.

**4 — Oday Aboushi**
*OT, 6-6, 300*
Aboushi moves well for his size. He also has a high football IQ, which could help him crack the depth chart early.

**5 — Quintin Hunter**
*ATH, 6-2, 180*
Hunter spent a lot of time at quarterback, meaning he has a good grasp of the workings of the game.

DALE ZANINE / US PRESSWIRE

# DUKE BLUE DEVILS 6

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Richmond | |
| S.12 | @ARMY | |
| S.19 | @KANSAS | |
| S.26 | North Carolina Central | |
| O.3 | Virginia Tech | 3-14 |
| O.10 | @NORTH CAROLINA STATE | 17-27 |
| O.24 | Maryland | |
| O.31 | @VIRGINIA | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.7 @ North Carolina 20-28**

This rivalry game has been moved from the final week of the regular season, so there's a chance the Tar Heels will overlook Duke after winning 18 of the last 19 in the series.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| N.14 | Georgia Tech | 0-27 |
| N.21 | @MIAMI (FL) | 31-49 |
| N.28 | Wake Forest | 30-33 (OT) |

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Duke lacks explosive playmakers.
- Linebackers, defensive backs look vulnerable.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 9 | Thaddeus Lewis (6-2, 200, Sr.) |
| RB | 21 | Re'quan Boyette (5-10, 200, Sr.) |
| LOT | 79 | Kyle Hill (6-6, 270, So.) |
| LOG | 77 | Jarrod Holt (6-6, 310, Sr.) |
| C | 62 | Bryan Morgan (6-3, 250, Jr.) |
| ROG | 46 | Jackson Anderson (6-4, 240, So.) |
| ROT | 66 | Pontus Bondeson (6-6, 275, Jr.) |
| TE | 87 | Brett Huffman (6-5, 235, Jr.) |
| WR | 37 | Johnny Williams (5-10, 190, So.) |
| WR | 17 | Sheldon Bell (6-4, 200, Jr.) |
| WR | 26 | Donovan Varner (5-9, 170, So.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 91 | Ayanga Okpokowuruk (6-4, 255, Sr.) |
| LDT | 3 | Vince Oghobaase (6-6, 300, Sr.) |
| RDT | 93 | Charlie Hatcher (6-3, 275, So.) |
| RDE | 90 | Patrick Egboh (6-4, 240, Jr.) |
| SLB | 8 | Abraham Kromah (6-1, 215, Jr.) |
| MLB | 56 | Damian Thornton (6-1, 235, Jr.) |
| WLB | 31 | Vincent Rey (6-0, 240, Sr.) |
| LCB | 36 | Lee Butler (5-10, 180, So.) |
| RCB | 16 | Chris Rwabukamba (6-0, 175, Jr.) |
| FS | 23 | Catron Gainey (6-2, 205, Sr.) |
| SS | 40 | Matt Daniels (6-1, 195, So.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 47 | Nick Maggio (6-4, 190, Jr.) |
| P | 49 | Kevin Jones (6-3, 200, Jr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 4-8
**ACC:** 1-7

**Coach:** David Cutcliffe
2nd year (4-8)
**Career record:** 48-37
**Offensive coordinators:**
Matt Luke (2nd year)
Kurt Roper (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinators:**
Marion Hobby (2nd year)
Mike MacIntyre (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Wallace Wade Stadium (33,941)
**Tickets:** 877-375-DUKE
**Site:** Durham, N.C.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.goduke.com

VINCE OGHOBAASE ▸ DT

KEVIN C. COX / GETTY IMAGES

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

Before one of Duke's practices last spring, a few guys had left the locker room a mess. So at the end of a scrimmage, the Blue Devils lined up across the length of the sideline at Wallace Wade Stadium to be taught a lesson.

They were made to do a brutal drill coach David Cutcliffe calls "lame dog." The players dropped down on all fours, and then scuttled the width of the field holding one leg up in the air while in full pads.

"I expect us to have the cleanest locker room and the most disciplined football team in the country," Cutcliffe says.

By most accounts, Cutcliffe's high standards helped Duke achieve its best win total in five years with a 4-8 finish in 2008.

Players say the team is improving, which would make the Blue Devils' first bowl appearance since 1994 seem possible. Senior Thaddeus Lewis returns at quarterback after earning second-team All-ACC honors last season and passing for at least 2,100 yards in each of the past three years.

With a year working together, Cutcliffe now trusts Lewis to make his own adjustments at the line of scrimmage. They both hope that will keep the Blue Devils out of bad plays.

Aside from quarterback, Duke is short on offensive talent. Center Bryan Morgan and left tackle Kyle Hill are the only starters back on the line, while sophomore wide receiver Johnny Williams is the only returning player who had more than 200 receiving yards last season.

Duke's coaches hope the return of senior running back Re'quan Boyette, who missed all of last season with knee surgery, will spark a rushing attack that was held to 106.2 yards per game in 2008.

"I bring a lot of explosiveness to the game," said Boyette after breaking off a 55-yard touchdown run in a spring scrimmage. "But I also try to be a great leader, mainly, and try to show the younger guys how to practice, how to play."

The defensive line should be strong with senior returning starters in Vince Oghobaase at tackle and Ayanga Okpokowuruk at end.

But the linebackers and secondary could be a problem. Weakside linebacker Vincent Rey and safety Catron Gainey are surrounded by inexperienced teammates, and linebacker Michael Tauiliili, who graduated, will be missed.

Still, Duke harbors one big asset—intelligence—and the coaching staff wants to use it to confuse opponents.

"Our defense, by design, is maybe the best that I've been around in disguise," Cutcliffe says. "... It's very difficult from my eye to know what they're doing."

Duke's scarcity of proven playmakers on offense and shaky back seven on defense should leave the Blue Devils near the bottom of the Coastal Division. But with Cutcliffe demanding perfection right up to the condition of the locker room, players are confident the team will continue gaining on the ACC.

"We're going to get better," Rey says, "because, mainly, we get better every day."

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***MATT DANIELS, S***

The sophomore had an interception and a fumble recovery last season against Virginia Tech before suffering a leg injury that sidelined him for the rest of the season. Duke's coaches like Daniels' speed and understanding of the game.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 Desmond Scott**
*RB, 5-9, 185*
The talented all-purpose back was a huge coup for the Blue Devils after he initially committed to Rutgers.

**2 John Drew**
*DT, 6-1, 303*
Drew is a four-star prospect at defensive tackle, and Duke hasn't seen many of those in recent memory.

**3 Walt Canty**
*S, 5-11, 198*
Canty runs well and has a knack for finding himself around the ball. With his solid frame, he can help in run support.

**4 Tyree Watkins**
*WR, 6-2, 185*
Watkins is a big-time playmaker with the speed that will move him up the depth chart quickly.

**5 Justin Foxx**
*DE, 6-3, 211*
Foxx will need to gain weight before he can contribute, but there's always the possibility he could move from defensive end to linebacker.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

## BIG EAST

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

1 Pittsburgh
2 West Virginia
3 South Florida
4 Rutgers
5 Cincinnati
6 Connecticut
7 Louisville
8 Syracuse

# Big East unpredictable on any given day

By Pete Williams, *Correspondent*

In the Big East, it seems any team can win on Saturday. Or Friday. Or Thursday.

Purists will bemoan the lack of perennial powers, especially in a hodgepodge conference still trying to forge an identity in the aftermath of college football's sweeping realignment earlier this decade. Then again, the Big East may have cemented its reputation as perhaps the most exciting league in the sport, providing high drama on Saturdays, as well as Thursday and Friday nights.

Big East football never will be mistaken for Big East basketball, the nation's most dominant conference in 2008-09. But football might be the enduring legacy of former commissioner Mike Tranghese, who made the league relevant through shrewd television negotiations and aggressive marketing.

Last season, four teams finished conference play 5-2 or better. As usual, it wasn't the four expected to do so. Connecticut and South Florida, both preseason favorites, posted losing records in the conference but still made it to bowl games, where they both won. Louisville, 12-1 in 2006, fell to a 1-6 record in the Big East. Syracuse, alas, remains the constant in the cellar.

No conference recruits collectively from as wide a base as this one. While Jim Leavitt and South Florida are content to stay in talent-rich Florida, schools such as Rutgers and West Virginia attack the entire East Coast, including the Sunshine State. Few conferences make better use of junior-college products, making it easier to reload.

Big East schools will pad their schedules with early-season creampuffs like any other BCS program, but it's a rare team that includes at least two tough nonconference opponents.

Even by Big East standards, the conference is wide-open this year. Only Cincinnati and South Florida have established quarterbacks and virtually everyone is breaking in at least one coordinator, a new offensive line and a new kicking game. Even Syracuse has reason for optimism with new coach Doug Marrone and the return of wide receiver Mike Williams.

That means the league will be more unpredictable than ever—any day of the week.

## RATING THE PLAYERS

**Fastest Receiver**
Jesse Hester, USF

**Best Hands**
Mardy Gilyard, WR, Cincinnati

**Best Passing QB**
Tony Pike, Cincinnati

**Best Running QB**
Matt Grothe, USF

**Most Elusive RB**
Noel Devine, West Virginia

**Best Instincts**
Victor Anderson, RB, Louisville

**Best Athlete**
Mike Williams, WR, Syracuse

**Best Under Pressure**
Tony Pike, QB, Cincinnati

**Top NFL Prospect**
George Selvie, DE, USF

**Top Impact Freshman**
Dion Lewis, RB, Pittsburgh

**Hardest Hitter**
Aaron Webster, S, Cincinnati

**Biggest Underachiever**
Jock Sanders, WR, West Virginia

**Best Home-Field Advantage**
West Virginia

**Best Fans**
West Virginia

**Best Mascot**
The Mountaineer, West Virginia

**Best Stadium**
Raymond James Stadium, USF

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Mike Farrell, *Rivals.com*

**1. WEST VIRGINIA** New staff, same recruiting success. This class is indicative of how the Mountaineers plan to tweak their offense. Four talented wide receivers should make the passing game formidable down the road.

**2. USF** The Bulls have the best recruiting base in the Big East and they made good use of it for the class of 2009. South Florida signed six defensive ends.

**3. RUTGERS** This class would look better if everyone who committed to Rutgers actually signed, but there is still plenty to be excited about for the Scarlet Knights. Quarterback Tom Savage will arrive on campus as perhaps the most highly touted recruit in the history of the program.

**4. PITTSBURGH** Dave Wannstedt got over the hump in 2008 by guiding Pitt to a bowl game, and he followed that up with another nice recruiting effort.

**5. CINCINNATI** After a stellar 2008 campaign that was capped with a trip to the Orange Bowl, the Bearcats did a nice job on the recruiting trail.

**6. CONNECTICUT** This is one of the better classes in the history of the UConn program. Four-star wide receiver Dwayne Difton comes to the school with high expectations.

**7. LOUISVILLE** It was a rough second year for coach Steve Kragthorpe, and recruiting wasn't any easier. Junior-college offensive tackle Joe Evinger should be an early contributor, but it was a struggle for the Cardinals to sign quality players.

**8. SYRACUSE** As is often the case, the coaching change made it tough for the Orange to recruit this year. Five defensive backs are the strength of this class.

## ALL-BIG EAST

### OFFENSE

QB Tony Pike, Sr., Cincinnati
RB Victor Anderson, So., Louisville
RB Noel Devine, Jr., West Virginia
OL Anthony Davis, Jr., Rutgers
OL Moe Petrus, So., Connecticut
OL Jason Pinkston, Jr., Pittsburgh
OL Jim McKenzie, Jr., Syracuse
OL Selvish Capers, Sr., West Virginia
WR Mardy Gilyard, Jr., Cincinnati
WR Doug Beaumont, Jr., Louisville
TE Nate Byham, Sr., Pittsburgh

### DEFENSE

DL George Selvie, Sr., South Florida
DL Greg Romeus, Jr., Pittsburgh
DL Arthur Jones, Sr., Syracuse
DL Scooter Berry, Jr., West Virginia
LB Scott Lutrus, Jr., Connecticut
LB Jon Dempsey, Sr., Louisville
LB Ryan D'Imperio, Sr., Rutgers
DB Aaron Berry, Sr., Pittsburgh
DB Robert Vaughn, Sr., Connecticut
DB Jasper Howard, Jr., Connecticut
DB Nate Allen, Sr., South Florida

### SPECIALISTS

K San San Te, So., Rutgers
P Desi Cullen, Sr., Connecticut

## FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1 The South Florida Bulls will prove they're a legitimate Florida power by defeating either Florida State in Tallahassee or (more likely) Miami in Tampa.

2 Cincinnati, despite a new 3-4 scheme and just one returning starter, will still have one of the league's better defenses under new coordinator Bob Diaco.

3 Running back Dion Lewis will be the latest true freshman to make an immediate impact for Pittsburgh, softening the blow of LeSean McCoy's early departure to the NFL.

4 The return of receiver Mike Williams will spark Syracuse to two conference wins, but progress under new coach Doug Marrone will be slow, especially with a tough nonconference schedule.

## ASCENDING

**SYRACUSE** After just 10 wins in four years under Greg Robinson, there's nowhere to go but up for the Orange with new coach Doug Marrone.

## DESCENDING

**WEST VIRGINIA** With Noel Devine and a tough defense, the Mountaineers are still contenders for the Big East title. But without QB Pat White, they're no longer the favorite.

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## Up-and-comers

These guys haven't even signed letter of intent yet, but recruiting guru **Brian McLaughlin** has put together SN's all-defensive team for the Class of 2010. Linebacker Corey Nelson of Dallas and lineman Zack McCray of Lynchburg, Va., are among those worth watching. **Full story**

The Recruitnik: All stars of 2009

## Interviews are finished

**Eben Britton** says his visit to the Vikings had the feel of a college recruiting visit, and he's happy with all three teams he visited. **Draft Diary**
**Free: Mock draft | Top prospects**

News | Recruiting | Campus Watch

- Paulus, Rich Rod meet about Michigan QB job (17)
- Documents show missteps in Missouri death
- Sanchez won't be in New York for NFL Draft (11)
- Vegas Bowl gets Maaco sponsor, sets Dec. 22 (3)
- Group wants to move college HOF to Dallas (7)
- Former Arizona State coach Snyder dies at 69 (9)
- S Carolina's LeCorn breaks leg in spring game (2)
- Gators lose four more starters to injury (8)
- Mich. State RB Winston gets 6 months in fight (3)
- Nebraska's Paul suspended after DUI arrest (3)

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NCAA Football
## Recruiting News

### Cassius picks Cal

Sometimes, a player surprises even his own mother and high school coach. Highly rated DT Cassius Marsh did just that when he committed to Jeff Tedford and the Golden Bears. **Read more**

- Gators land 10th commitment
- Spurrier lands QB for South Carolina
- RB Bernard talking top three
- Georgia lands second commitment
- CB Riggs slowly trimming list

SPORTING NEWS
## Blog Network

THE SPORTING BLOG

Profile in courage: Cory Wilson, Chicago Bears

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BIG EAST PRESEASON RANK

# 1 PITTSBURGH PANTHERS

NATE BYHAM ▸ TE

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Youngstown State | |
| S.12 | @BUFFALO | 27-16 |
| S.19 | Navy | 42-21 |
| S.26 | @N.C. STATE | |
| O.2 | @LOUISVILLE | 41-7 |
| O.10 | Connecticut | 34-10 |
| O.16 | @RUTGERS | 34-54 |
| O.24 | South Florida | 26-21 |
| N.7 | Syracuse | 34-24 |
| N.14 | Notre Dame | 36-33 (OT) |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.27 West Virginia 19-15**

The conference title could be decided under a national spotlight the day after Thanksgiving. The Panthers have won two straight low-scoring affairs.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| D.5 | Cincinnati | 21-28 |

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» SUGAR BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ A-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Dave Wannstedt has the personnel in place.
- Must find an adequate successor to feature back LeSean McCoy.

Dave Wannstedt looked like an underachiever after his first three seasons at his alma mater, with a losing record and no bowl games to his credit. But his three straight top-25 recruiting classes began to bear fruit in 2008 with a nine-win season, an appearance in the Sun Bowl and a No. 18 ranking in the final *Associated Press* poll.

Now entering his fifth year, Wannstedt is still looking to produce Pitt's first bowl win since 2002 and first postseason point since 2004. The Panthers lost the '08 Sun Bowl to Oregon State, 3-0.

He has the Panthers in position to contend for a Big East title, though he'll have to replace his most valuable players on either side of the ball—linebacker Scott McKillop and running back LeSean McCoy, who left school early for the NFL. The Panthers also must replace their top receiver (Derek Kinder).

Wannstedt insists incumbent quarterback Bill Stull won't be handed the starting job after an erratic season in which he completed 57 percent of his passes for 2,356 yards last year. He also threw only nine touchdowns and 10 interceptions. Stull has been injury-prone, which means junior Pat Bostick will be a valuable insurance policy.

The Panthers won't replace the production of McCoy, the nation's second-leading scorer last year. They'll need to find a capable successor, however, as only three of the Panthers' 27 touchdowns inside the 20 last season came by way of the pass. Only junior Kevin Collier and sophomore Shariff Harris have carried the ball at the college level. However, recruit Dion Lewis, who enrolled in January, saw significant action in the spring and should emerge as the starter.

Jonathan Baldwin averaged a team-high 22.4 yards per reception as a true freshman last season, catching 18 passes for 404 yards. Senior Oderick Turner also returns after a 21-catch, 298-yard season.

Tight end Nate Byham (20 catches, 260 yards) became the first Pitt tight end to earn first-team All-Big East honors and just the third to be honored on an all-conference team.

The Panthers must replace C.J. Davis, an all-conference performer, but return

RANDY LITZINGER

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

| Bill Stull | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 12 | 119.88 | 330-188-10 | 57.0 | 2356 | 9 | 196.3 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aundre Wright | 12 | 5 | 34 | 6.8 | 1 | 2.8 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T.J. Porter | 10 | 25 | 357 | 14.3 | 0 | 35.7 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dom DeCicco | 13 | 38 | 18 | 56 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Greg Romeus | 13 | 7.5 | 56 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dom DeCicco | 4 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-4
**Big East:** 5-2
*(lost to Oregon State in the Sun Bowl, 3-0)*

**Coach:** Dave Wannstedt
5th year (25-23)
**Career record:** 25-23
**Offensive coordinator:**
Frank Cignetti Jr. (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Phil Bennett (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Heinz Field (65,050)
**Tickets:** 412-648-PITT
**Site:** Pittsburgh
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.pittsburghpanthers.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 11 | Bill Stull (6-3, 215, Sr.) |
| | 19 | Pat Bostick (6-3, 220, Jr.) |
| FB | 27 | Henry Hynoski (6-2, 250, So.) |
| | | Joe Capp (5-10, 220, Jr.) |
| RB | 28 | Dion Lewis (5-8, 190, Fr.) |
| | 43 | Shariff Harris (6-1, 215, So.) |
| LOT | 77 | Jason Pinkston (6-4, 300, Jr.) |
| | 68 | Jordan Gibbs (6-7, 290, So.) |
| LOG | 54 | Chris Jacobson (6-3, 290, Fr.) |
| | 52 | Lucas Nix (6-6, 300, So.) |
| C | 64 | Robb Houser (6-2, 285, Sr.) |
| | 53 | Alex Karabin (6-1, 290, Jr.) |
| ROG | 74 | John Malecki (6-3, 280, Sr.) |
| | 69 | Jared Martin (6-2, 285, Jr.) |
| ROT | 56 | Joe Thomas (6-5, 300, Sr.) |
| | 60 | Greg Gaskins (6-4, 295, So.) |
| TE | 80 | Nate Byham (6-3, 255, Sr.) |
| | 2 | Dorin Dickerson (6-2, 230, Sr.) |
| WR | 82 | Jonathan Baldwin (6-5, 220, So.) |
| | 1 | Cedric McGee (6-1, 205, Sr.) |
| WR | 88 | Oderick Turner (6-3, 205, Sr.) |
| | 10 | Aundre Wright (5-11, 180, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 97 | Jabaal Sheard (6-4, 250, Jr.) |
| | 46 | Shayne Hale (6-4, 240, Fr.) |
| LDT | 94 | Myles Caragein (6-2, 275, So.) |
| | 57 | Craig Bokor (6-3, 290, Sr.) |
| RDT | 95 | Ernest (Mick) Williams (6-1, 285, Sr.) |
| | 93 | Gus Mustakas (6-3, 280, Sr.) |
| RDE | 91 | Greg Romeus (6-5, 265, r-Jr.) |
| | 90 | Tony Tucker (6-2, 235, So.) |
| SLB | 38 | Greg Williams (6-3, 225, So.) |
| | 44 | Nate Nix (6-3, 235, Jr.) |
| MLB | 6 | Steve Dell (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| | 8 | Adam Gunn (6-2, 230, Sr.) |
| WLB | 15 | Shane Murray (6-1, 220, Sr.) |
| | 32 | Tristan Roberts (6-0, 230, So.) |
| LCB | 7 | Jovani Chappel (5-9, 180, Sr.) |
| | 21 | Buddy Jackson (6-0, 175, So.) |
| RCB | 17 | Aaron Berry (5-11, 175, Sr.) |
| | 22 | Antwuan Reed (5-10, 180, So.) |
| FS | 4 | Elijah Fields (6-2, 220, Jr.) |
| | 41 | Andrew Taglianetti (5-11, 175, So.) |
| SS | 31 | Dom DeCicco (6-3, 220, Jr.) |
| | 20 | Irvan Brown (6-0, 205, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 31 | Dan Hutchins (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| P | 31 | Dan Hutchins (5-11, 190, Jr.) |

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | PITT | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 352 | 279 |
| Points Per Game | 27.1 | 21.5 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 239 | 217 |
| Rushing | 101 | 95 |
| Passing | 118 | 103 |
| Penalty | 20 | 19 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1808 | 1614 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2186 | 1998 |
| Yards lost rushing | 378 | 384 |
| Rushing Attempts | 492 | 451 |
| Average Per Rush | 3.7 | 3.6 |
| Average Per Game | 139.1 | 124.2 |
| TDs Rushing | 29 | 14 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2644 | 2509 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 381-213-14 | 396-215-16 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.9 | 6.3 |
| Average Per Catch | 12.4 | 11.7 |
| Average Per Game | 203.4 | 193.0 |
| TDs Passing | 10 | 19 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4452 | 4123 |
| Total Plays | 873 | 847 |
| Average Per Play | 5.1 | 4.9 |
| Average Per Game | 342.5 | 317.2 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 54-1096 | 65-1213 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 32-295 | 21-108 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 16-162 | 14-319 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | PITT | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 20.3 | 18.7 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 9.2 | 5.1 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 10.1 | 22.8 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 23-13 | 18-8 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 57-440 | 73-624 |
| Average Per Game | 33.8 | 48.0 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 63-2525 | 72-2929 |
| Average Per Punt | 40.1 | 40.7 |
| Net punt average | 37.1 | 35.2 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 31:22 | 28:38 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 63/181 | 64/187 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 35% | 34% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 13/19 | 8/19 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 68% | 42% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 33-229 | 32-177 |
| MISC YARDS | 52 | -3 |
| TDS SCORED | 42 | 35 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 20-24 | 13-20 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 38-38 | 30-34 |
| ATTENDANCE | 296113 | 271254 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/49352 | 6/45209 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/49037 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pittsburgh | 79 | 88 | 51 | 122 | 12 | 352 |
| Opponent | 54 | 91 | 78 | 47 | 9 | 279 |

four starters from an offensive line that paved the way for McCoy's back-to-back 1,000-yard rushing seasons.

Junior Jason Pinkston will start at left tackle for the second season while Joe Thomas, who has 27 career starts, will line up on the right side. Senior John Malecki enters his second season as the starter at right guard after moving from defensive tackle. Center Robb Houser is back after suffering a late-season ankle fracture.

Pitt fields one of the best defensive-end tandems in the country in juniors Greg Romeus and Jabaal Sheard. Romeus, a former basketball prospect, played only one year of high school football but was a second-team all-conference selection as a redshirt sophomore after compiling 15.5 tackles, including 7.5 sacks.

Steve Dell, a fifth-year senior who has been hampered by knee problems, figures to get the first shot at replacing the All-American McKillop at middle linebacker. Senior Shane Murray, who started at the weakside position in 2007 before missing parts of last year due to a knee injury, is expected to return.

Sophomore Greg Williams is the only returning starter at linebacker, having made a successful transition from tailback. Once considered a bruising successor to McCoy, he filled in admirably for the injured Adam Gunn and recorded 47 tackles and 3.5 sacks.

Gunn, a starter in 2007, has been granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA, and should be a pleasant comeback story after breaking his neck in a helmet-to-helmet collision with McKillop in last year's season opener against Bowling Green.

The Pitt secondary, which picked off 16 passes in '08, returns virtually intact.

Three-year starter Aaron Berry, a second-team All-Big East performer last season, had a team-high 10 pass breakups and three interceptions last year.

The Panthers might have an easier time replacing McCoy and McKillop than Conor Lee, who graduated as the most accurate kicker in Pitt history. During his career, Lee converted 83.3 percent of his field goals and 100 percent of his extra points.

The team must also replace Dave Brytus, a two-year starter at punter.

Candidates at kicker are redshirt freshman Kevin Harper, junior Dan Hutchins and junior Luke Briggs, who lettered last year.

## RECRUITING REPORT

Dave Wannstedt finally got some of his critics off his back after guiding the Panthers to the postseason, and he hopes this class is the foundation for future success. Pitt has a nice recruiting base in western Pennsylvania, but also branched out into states such as New Jersey.

Pitt had the most success at running back. They are looking for LeSean McCoy's replacement and signed five prospects in the hopes of finding it. Four-star standout **Raymond Graham** is the most talented of the incoming running backs.

At 6-3, 200 pounds, **Todd Thomas** is an impressive wide receiver, and four talented offensive linemen round out the core of the offensive prospects in this class.

On defense, four-star defensive end **Jack Lippert** and four-star linebacker **Dan Mason** are the headliners.

This is not Wannstedt's best recruiting class since moving to the college ranks, but it should provide quality depth to the offense.

*—Mike Farrell,* Rivals.com

## THE NEXT BIG THING *JONATHAN BALDWIN, WR*

A top-50 recruit in 2008, Baldwin caught 18 passes for 404 yards as a true freshman. With the departure of All-Big East wide receiver Derek Kinder, he has 1,000-yard potential.

# 2 WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS

NOEL DEVINE ▸ RB

JOE ROBBINS

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Liberty | |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.12** | **East Carolina** | **3-24** |
| One of the most stunning upsets of the 2008 season, the Pirates must travel to Morgantown to prove the win—and their season—was no fluke. | | |
| S.19 | @AUBURN | 34-17 |
| 0.1 | Colorado | 14-17 (OT) |
| 0.10 | @SYRACUSE | 17-6 |
| 0.17 | Marshall | 27-3 |
| 0.24 | Connecticut | 35-13 |
| 0.30 | @SOUTH FLORIDA | 13-7 |
| N.7 | Louisville | 35-21 |
| N.13 | @CINCINNATI | 23-26 (OT) |
| N.27 | Pittsburgh | 15-19 |
| D.5 | @RUTGERS | 24-17 |

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» GATOR BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ B+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Mountaineers have experienced defense and top rusher in Noel Devine.
- Green offensive line could be team's downfall.

After three 11-win seasons, the Mountaineers won "only" nine games in Bill Stewart's first full year as coach. And now they must replace quarterback Pat White, the most dangerous offensive weapon in Big East history save Syracuse's Donovan McNabb.

The Mountaineers entered last season as a popular pick to win the national title, having captured the Big East crown four times in five seasons and ranking as one of just four schools to finish in the top 10 in the final *Associated Press* rankings each of the last three seasons.

Instead, they dug a hole by losing early nonconference games at East Carolina and Colorado and face those teams in the first two months again this season, albeit at home, split up by a road date at Auburn.

Even with the tough out-of-conference slate and the loss of White, a return to 11-win form is within reach for a program that has become one of the nation's most consistent. The team's 50-13 record ranks as the ninth best over the last five seasons.

Unlike last year, when the Mountaineers had questions in August surrounding the defense, it's the offense that is reloading this time around.

After being White's backup the past four seasons, Jarrett Brown finally gets his shot. Like White, he's a dual-threat quarterback, capable of taking off at any time.

Noel Devine, one of West Virginia's biggest recruits two years ago, could emerge as a Heisman Trophy candidate after rushing for 1,289 yards on 206 carries as a sophomore and an eye-popping 6.3 yards per carry.

Though the Mountaineers finished second in the Big East in rushing offense, they struggled in short-yardage situations, an area offensive coordinator Jeff Mullen focused on during the spring. Fullback Will Johnson, who was hampered by a thigh bruise last season, should help if healthy.

Wide receiver Alric Arnett led the Mountaineers in receiving yards (466) as a junior while finishing second in touchdowns (6) and receptions (35). With the return of All-Big East second-team performer Jock Sanders uncertain after a DUI arrest, converted quarterback Bradley Starks (17 catches, 168 yards) is the only other receiver with significant experience. Freshman Logan Heastie is a four-star recruit who enrolled a

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

| Jarrett Brown | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 9 | 109.59 | 22-30-1 | 73.3 | 114 | 1 | 12.7 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Noel Devine | 13 | 206 | 1289 | 6.3 | 4 | 99.2 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alric Arnett | 13 | 35 | 466 | 13.3 | 6 | 35.8 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| J.T. Thomas | 13 | 23 | 42 | 65 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| J.T. Thomas | 13 | 10.0 | 46 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brandon Hogan | 3 | 61 | 20.3 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-4
**Big East:** 5-2
*(beat North Carolina in the Meineke Car Care Bowl, 31-30)*

**Coach:** Bill Stewart
2nd year (10-4)
**Career record:** 10-4
**Offensive coordinator:**
Jeff Mullen (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Jeff Casteel (8th year)

**Stadium:** Mountaineer Field at Milan Puskar Stadium (60,000)
**Tickets:** 800-WVU-GAME
**Site:** Morgantown, W.Va.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.msnsportsnet.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 16 | Jarrett Brown (6-4, 221, Sr.) |
| | 8 | Coley White (6-0, 174, Fr.) |
| FB | 6 | Will Johnson (6-2, 232, Jr.) |
| | 41 | Ricky Kovatch (6-2, 239, So.) |
| RB | 7 | Noel Devine (5-8, 175, Jr.) |
| | 23 | Mark Rodgers (5-8, 174, So.) |
| LOT | 64 | Don Barclay (6-4, 298, So.) |
| | 58 | Levi Pardee (6-6, 302, Fr.) |
| LOG | 77 | Josh Jenkins (6-3, 298, So.) |
| | 65 | Chad Snodgrass (6-4, 291, So.) |
| C | 61 | Eric Jobe (6-2, 284, Jr.) |
| | 56 | Gino Gradkowski (6-3, 292, So.) |
| ROG | 59 | Matt Timmerman (6-3, 282, Jr.) |
| | 57 | Jeffrey Braun (6-4, 307, Fr.) |
| ROT | 66 | Selvish Capers (6-5, 298, Sr.) |
| | 67 | Jon Walko (6-6, 289, Sr.) |
| TE | 89 | Tyler Urban (6-5, 244, So.) |
| | 88 | Tyler Rader (6-3, 252, So.) |
| WR | 82 | Alric Arnett (6-2, 187, Sr.) |
| | 4 | Wes Lyons (6-8, 231, Sr.) |
| WR | 14 | Bradley Starks (6-3, 188, So.) |
| | 2 | Logan Heastie (6-2, 192, Fr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 93 | Scooter Berry (6-1, 280, Jr.) |
| | 91 | Jorge Wright (6-2, 270, Fr.) |
| NT | 90 | Chris Neild (6-2, 298, Jr.) |
| | 94 | Joshua Taylor (6-1, 263, So.) |
| RDE | 97 | Julian Miller (6-4, 248, So.) |
| | 92 | Larry Ford (6-3, 255, Jr.) |
| SLB | 57 | Zac Cooper (6-3, 230, Sr.) |
| | 52 | Najae Goode (6-1, 231, So.) |
| MLB | 47 | Reed Williams (6-1, 228, r-Sr.) |
| | 45 | Anthony Leonard (6-1, 240, Jr.) |
| WLB | 30 | J.T. Thomas (6-2, 224, Jr.) |
| | 49 | Ovid Goulbourne (6-1, 230, Sr.) |
| LCB | 22 | Brandon Hogan (5-10, 188, Jr.) |
| | 10 | Guesly Dervil (5-11, 188, Sr.) |
| RCB | 38 | Keith Tandy (5-10, 198, So.) |
| | 17 | Kent Richardson (5-11, 190, Sr.) |
| FS | 28 | Robert Sands (6-0, 211, So.) |
| | 24 | Eain Smith (5-11, 200, So.) |
| SS | 11 | Sidney Glover (5-11, 210, Jr.) |
| | 12 | Nate Sowers (6-1, 208, Sr.) |
| S | 20 | Boogie Allen (6-1, 193, Sr.) |
| | 27 | Courtney Stuart (6-2, 210, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 14 | Tyler Bitancurt (6-1, 188, Fr.) |
| P | 37 | Scott Kozlowski (5-11, 191, Sr.) |

semester early and could contribute immediately.

The Mountaineers must rebuild an offensive line that ranked among the nation's best last year with all-conference performers Ryan Stanchek and Mike Dent, who both departed. Only two starters return in Selvish Capers and Eric Jobe, who started the final five games after Dent went down with a neck injury.

Sophomore Josh Jenkins played the first five games of last season until suffering a knee injury. He'll start at left guard. Sophomore Don Barclay played in all 13 games and will fill the left-tackle post. Junior Matt Timmerman projects as the starter at right guard, though freshmen Jeffrey Braun and Joe Madsen also figure in the mix.

For all of the talk about West Virginia's high-powered offense, the defense drew some accolades last year, ranking No. 1 in the Big East in scoring defense and 11th nationally.

Scooter Berry anchors the defensive line. A second-team All-Big East selection as a sophomore, the end finished with 5.5 tackles for loss. Nose tackle Chris Neild is the other returning starter after collecting 47 tackles last year, the most among the team's defensive linemen. Junior Larry Ford and sophomore Julian Miller were effective in reserve roles as ends and one will start in '09.

The linebacking corps will have to rebound from the graduation loss of Mortty Ivy, a first-team all-conference performer. Reed Williams, the starting middle linebacker in 2007 and MVP of the 2008 Fiesta Bowl, returns after redshirting to deal with extended rehab from double-shoulder surgery.

Junior J.T. Thomas returns at weakside linebacker, bidding to become a second-generation All-Big East linebacker; his father, J.T. Sr., earned such honors as a senior in 1995. Anthony Leonard, who filled in at middle linebacker in Williams' absence, will try to retain his position.

Junior Brandon Hogan (3 INTs) is back at cornerback after missing the bowl game against North Carolina with an unspecified personal matter. Sophomore Keith Tandy, who filled in for Hogan in that game, is the leading candidate to fill the other spot vacated by Ellis Lankster.

The toughest shoes to fill will be those of Pat McAfee, who graduated after handling all of the kicking duties for the past two seasons. It will take at least two players to replace him. Freshman Tyler Bitancurt is the front-runner at kicker. Scott Kozlowski is likely to take over on punts and kickoffs.

## RECRUITING REPORT

West Virginia had arguably its best recruiting class in history under coach Bill Stewart in 2009, ranking first in the Big East by a wide margin and just outside of the national top 25.

The offense dominates this class, led by quarterback **Eugene Smith,** wide receivers **Stedman Bailey, Logan Heastie** and **Deon Long** and running back **Tavon Austin.** Smith has good size at 6-3 and 182 pounds, and he can move as well.

On the defensive side of the ball, junior-college defensive end **Tevita Finau** could be an instant-impact player with his 6-5, 275-pound frame. Four talented defensive backs fill needs, and athlete **Brodrick Jenkins** is yet another versatile pick from Florida.

This class will be key for Stewart and his hope to make a run at a national title.

*—Mike Farrell, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *LOGAN HEASTIE, WR*

The heralded 6-2 true freshman will get an opportunity to play and has the explosive talents and makeup to thrive quickly.

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | WVU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 319 | 221 |
| Points Per Game | 24.5 | 17.0 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 237 | 249 |
| Rushing | 134 | 109 |
| Passing | 86 | 124 |
| Penalty | 17 | 16 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2729 | 1711 |
| Yards gained rushing | 3029 | 2029 |
| Yards lost rushing | 300 | 318 |
| Rushing Attempts | 517 | 475 |
| Average Per Rush | 5.3 | 3.6 |
| Average Per Game | 209.9 | 131.6 |
| TDs Rushing | 15 | 15 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 1956 | 2565 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 305-202-8 | 428-240-17 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.4 | 6.0 |
| Average Per Catch | 9.7 | 10.7 |
| Average Per Game | 150.5 | 197.3 |
| TDs Passing | 22 | 11 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4685 | 4276 |
| Total Plays | 822 | 903 |
| Average Per Play | 5.7 | 4.7 |
| Average Per Game | 360.4 | 328.9 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 41-881 | 53-1484 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 28-221 | 23-121 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 17-235 | 8-36 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | WVU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 21.5 | 28.0 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 7.9 | 5.3 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 13.8 | 4.5 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 20-8 | 21-11 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 59-535 | 77-662 |
| Average Per Game | 41.2 | 50.9 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 62-2772 | 64-2609 |
| Average Per Punt | 44.7 | 40.8 |
| Net punt average | 40.5 | 35.8 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 29:03 | 30:57 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 74/177 | 79/188 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 42% | 42% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 4/13 | 7/22 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 31% | 32% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 25-161 | 18-109 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 38 | 27 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 17-20 | 11-18 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 36-36 | 24-24 |
| ATTENDANCE | 406593 | 233308 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/58085 | 5/46662 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/73712 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| West Virginia | 70 | 67 | 101 | 78 | 3 | 319 |
| Opponent | 81 | 70 | 21 | 40 | 9 | 221 |

# 3 SOUTH FLORIDA BULLS

The South Florida football program, still in only its 13th year of existence, continues to tantalize. In each of the last two seasons, the Bulls have shot up to a top-10 ranking, only to plummet in the second half of the season.

With eccentric coach Jim Leavitt focusing his recruiting efforts within the talent-rich Sunshine State, the Bulls have the makings of a perennial Top 25 program.

Their best shot at a top-10 finish, however, could be this season.

That's because they return the Big East's best offensive and defensive players in quarterback Matt Grothe and end George Selvie.

Their performances this year will go a long way toward determining the fate of the Bulls, who finished a disappointing sixth in the Big East last season.

Grothe is a scrambling, dual-threat gunslinger with Brett Favre's flair for the dramatic and tendency toward untimely interceptions. Grothe should benefit from the promotion of wide receivers coach Mike Canales, who will run a more pure version of the spread offense as the new offensive coordinator.

Running back Mike Ford has dropped 20 pounds from last season and projects as the starter, though senior Moise Plancher is also in the mix.

The offensive line returns just one starter, junior Zach Hermann. Jacob Sims, the only other definitive starter, will play either center or left tackle.

Canales' adjustments should mean more passes to the receivers. Junior return man Dontavia Bogan (26 catches) is a star waiting to happen at the position. Jessie Hester, A.J. Love, Ed Alcin and Carlton Mitchell give the Bulls one of the conference's better collections of receivers.

New defensive coordinator Joe Tresey replaces the popular Wally Burnham, who left for Iowa State.

Tresey has retained the 4-3 but added some different looks. Selvie is back after an '08 season that didn't live up to his sophomore All-America campaign, when he had 14.5 sacks. He faced constant double teams last season and has struggled to put on weight but plans to be at 255 pounds by the fall.

The Bulls have experience on the defensive line with tackles Aaron Harris and Terrell McClain and end Craig Marshall.

For the first time in years, the Bulls do not return a corps of accomplished linebackers, though Kion Wilson established himself in the middle last year as a transfer.

Chris Robinson is listed as the starter on the strong side, though Donte Spires will challenge that call. Sabbath Joseph has a stronger hold on the weakside position.

Reliable senior Nate Allen is an all-conference candidate at free safety and sophomore Jerrell Young will take over at strong safety.

With Grothe and Selvie returning to a wide-open Big East, a repeat of last season's 2-5 conference showing would be a major disappointment, especially with Leavitt now the conference's highest-paid coach.

GEORGE SELVIE DE

BRAD SCHLOSS / ICON SMI

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***DONTAVIA BOGAN, WR***

Second in the Big East in kickoff-return average (26.6 yards) in '08, Bogan should play a bigger role in the spread offense as a junior.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5
**Big East:** 2-5
*(beat Memphis in the St. Petersburg Bowl, 41-14)*

**Coach:** Jim Leavitt
13th year (87-52)
**Career record:** 87-52
**Offensive coordinator:**
Mike Canales (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Joe Tresey (1st year)

**Stadium:** Raymond James Stadium (65,857)
**Tickets:** 813-974-3002
**Site:** Tampa, Fla.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.gousfbulls.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

| | |
|---|---|
| '04 | 4 |
| '05 | 6 |
| '06 | 9 |
| '07 | 9 |
| '08 | 8 |

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Wofford | |
| S.12 | @WESTERN KENTUCKY | |
| S.19 | Charleston Southern | |
| S.26 | @FLORIDA STATE | |
| 0.3 | @SYRACUSE | 45-13 |
| 0.15 | Cincinnati | 10-24 |
| 0.24 | @PITTSBURGH | 21-26 |
| 0.30 | West Virginia | 7-13 |
| N.12 | @RUTGERS | 16-49 |
| N.21 | Louisville | 20-24 |
| N.28 | Miami (FL) | |
| D.5 | @CONNECTICUT | 17-13 |

**GAME TO WATCH**
**S.26 @FLORIDA STATE**
The Bulls believe they belong among in-state powers Florida State, Florida and Miami. This game will show if that's true.

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL
» MEINEKE CAR CARE BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» There's talent and experience with Matt Grothe and George Selvie. But can the Bulls ever break through?

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 8 | Matt Grothe (6-0, 205, Sr.) |
| RB | 26 | Mike Ford (6-2, 225, Jr.) |
| LOT | 64 | Jacob Sims (6-5, 285, Jr.) |
| LOG | 79 | Chaz Hine (6-4, 292, So.) |
| C | 62 | Sampson Genus (6-1, 314, Jr.) |
| ROG | 61 | Zach Hermann (6-3, 313, Jr.) |
| ROT | 74 | Mark Popek (6-7, 305, Fr.) |
| TE | 82 | Ben Busbee (6-3, 242, Sr.) |
| WR | 2 | Carlton Mitchell (6-4, 212, Jr.) |
| WR | 81 | Dontavia Bogan (6-1, 183, Jr.) |
| WR | 6 | Ed Alcin (6-2, 185, Jr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 94 | Craig Marshall (6-5, 260, Jr.) |
| LDT | 98 | Aaron Harris (6-4, 270, Sr.) |
| RDT | 97 | Terrell McClain (6-3, 306, Jr.) |
| RDE | 95 | George Selvie (6-4, 255, Sr.) |
| SLB | 49 | Chris Robinson (6-3, 245, Sr.) |
| MLB | 42 | Kion Wilson (6-2, 235, Sr.) |
| WLB | 43 | Sabbath Joseph (6-0, 230, Jr.) |
| LCB | 2 | Quenton Washington (5-10, 183, So.) |
| RCB | 3 | Jerome Murphy (6-1, 185, Sr.) |
| FS | 5 | Nate Allen (6-2, 206, Sr.) |
| SS | 1 | Jerrell Young (6-2, 194, So.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PK | 28 | Maikon Bonani (5-9, 174, So.) |
| P | 25 | Delbert Alvarado (6-0, 209, Sr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Ryne Giddins**
*DE, 6-4, 235*
Giddins should terrorize quarterbacks at South Florida with his giant frame and 4.6-second time in the 40-yard dash.

**2 — Jason Pierre-Paul**
*DE, 6-6, 265*
Pierre-Paul will be a tremendous bookend and is college-ready because of his experience at Fort Scott Community College in Kansas.

**3 — Kyrhi Thornton**
*DT, 6-3, 300*
Thornton is a huge defensive tackle who will be an anchor in the middle and complement Giddins and Pierre-Paul well.

**4 — Bradley Battles**
*ATH, 5-9, 179*
Battles will get his first look at running back, but he could also be a slot receiver or a defensive back.

**5 — Adaris Bellamy**
*RB, 5-9, 214*
Bellamy is a big, bruising running back who moves the chains. He has stamina and his physical running style will be welcome at USF.

# RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS 4

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.7** | **Cincinnati** | **10-13** |
| The Bearcats will provide a huge test for the Scarlet Knights' reloaded offense and secondary. | | |
| **S.12** | Howard | |
| **S.19** | Florida International | |
| **S.26** | @MARYLAND | |
| **O.3** | Texas Southern | |
| **O.16** | Pittsburgh | 54-34 |
| **O.23** | @ARMY | 30-3 |
| **O.31** | @CONNECTICUT | 12-10 |
| **N.12** | South Florida | 49-16 |
| **N.21** | @SYRACUSE | 35-17 |
| **N.27** | @LOUISVILLE | 63-14 |
| **D.5** | West Virginia | 17-24 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL

» ST. PETERSBURG BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

» Veteran offensive line provides stability.

» Who will replace stars at quarterback and wide receiver?

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 15 | Jabu Lovelace (6-2, 215, Sr.) |
| FB | 19 | Jack Corcoran (6-1, 230, Sr.) |
| RB | 8 | Kordell Young (5-9, 185, Jr.) |
| LOT | 75 | Anthony Davis (6-6, 325, Jr.) |
| LOG | 60 | Caleb Ruch (6-4, 285, So.) |
| C | 61 | Ryan Blaszczyk (6-4, 295, Sr.) |
| ROG | 77 | Art Forst (6-8, 310, So.) |
| ROT | 78 | Kevin Haslam (6-7, 295, Sr.) |
| TE | 3 | Shamar Graves (6-3, 230, Jr.) |
| WR | 2 | Tim Brown (5-8, 165, Sr.) |
| WR | 18 | Julian Hayes (6-1, 215, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 31 | George Johnson (6-4, 260, Sr.) |
| LDT | 96 | Charlie Noonan (6-2, 265, Jr.) |
| RDT | 48 | Blair Bines (6-2, 260, Sr.) |
| RDE | 45 | Alex Silvestro (6-4, 250, Jr.) |
| SLB | 50 | Antonio Lowery (6-2, 225, Jr.) |
| MLB | 44 | Ryan D'Imperio (6-3, 240, Sr.) |
| WLB | 17 | Damaso Munoz (6-0, 215, Sr.) |
| LCB | 35 | Billy Anderson (6-0, 185, Sr.) |
| RCB | 21 | Devin McCourty (5-11, 185, Sr.) |
| FS | 29 | Zaire Kitchen (6-2, 215, Sr.) |
| SS | 26 | Joe Lefeged (6-1, 200, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 1 | San San Te (5-9, 180, So.) |
| P | 93 | Teddy Dellaganna (6-2, 210, Jr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5
**Big East:** 5-2
*(beat N.C. State in the Papajohns.com Bowl, 29-23)*
**Coach:** Greg Schiano
9th year (46-51)
**Career record:** 46-51
**Offensive coordinators:**
Kirk Ciarrocca (1st year)
Kyle Flood (1st year)
**Defensive coordinators:**
Bob Fraser (1st year)
Ed Pinkham (1st year)
**Stadium:** Rutgers Stadium (42,000)
**Tickets:** 866-445-GORU
**Site:** Piscataway, N.J.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.scarletknights.com

KORDELL YOUNG » RB

JIM O'CONNOR / US PRESSWIRE

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

| | |
|---|---|
| '04 | 4 |
| '05 | 7 |
| '06 | 11 |
| '07 | 8 |
| '08 | 8 |

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

The emergence of Rutgers as a national football power was supposed to end last season following the departure of running back Ray Rice and, indeed, the Scarlet Knights began the year 1-5.

Then they rattled off seven consecutive wins, finishing with a 5-2 Big East record and a victory in the Papajohns.com Bowl. The Scarlet Knights are one of just nine teams from a BCS conference to win three bowls in each of the last three seasons. They return eight starters on offense, including the entire offensive line, and six regulars on defense.

Recovering from the departure of Rice, however, might prove easier than replacing the most successful quarterback in school history (Mike Teel) and a pair of wide receivers (Kenny Britt and Tiquan Underwood) who combined for 1,865 yards and 12 touchdowns last season.

Still, in a wide-open Big East, Rutgers has a shot at the title, especially since they're unlikely to get off to a 1-5 start against an early schedule that includes Howard, Florida International and Texas Southern.

Replacing Teel and his 9,378 career passing yards will be difficult, but the Knights have options. Coach Greg Schiano listed seniors Jabu Lovelace and Domenic Natale as the co-starters in the spring, but redshirt freshman D.C. Jefferson could emerge by fall. A top-five quarterback when he came out of Winter Haven, Fla., a year ago, the 6-6, 240-pound Jefferson could get the first shot at succeeding Teel.

The top four running backs return, including redshirt junior Kordell Young, who made a strong return last season after returning from ACL surgery, rushing for a team-high 554 yards and five touchdowns in just eight games. Young will fight for carries with Jourdan Brooks (516 yards, 100 carries) and Joe Martinek (404, 76).

With Britt and Underwood in the NFL and Dennis Campbell recently dismissed from the team, Tim Brown is the only returning wideout who hauled in a touchdown last season. The senior caught 27 passes for 565 yards for a team-high 20.9 yards per catch. The need for bodies at wide receiver was so dire that Schiano moved tailback Mason Robinson there.

Rutgers returns all five starters on an offensive line that paved the way for a combined 1,664 yards on the ground and 3,515 through the air. Leading the unit is second-team All-Big East selection Anthony Davis at left tackle.

The Knights must rebuild a defense that accounted for 35 percent of the tackles, 40 percent of the sacks and 50 percent of the interceptions. Leading the line will be end George Johnson, who recorded 10 tackles for loss in '08. Alex Silvestro will move from tackle to the other end position.

Ryan D'Imperio, a second-team all-conference pick who ranked fifth in the Big East with 93 tackles, anchors the linebacking corps.

In the secondary, Zaire Kitchen and Joe Lefeged are top-notch safeties.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Tom Savage**
*QB, 6-4, 217*
Perhaps Rutgers' most touted recruit in the history of the school, Savage has prototypical size and a great arm.

**2 — De'Antwan Williams**
*RB, 5-6, 185*
Williams will have to prove his durability in the college ranks, but there is no doubting his quickness.

**3 — Isaac Holmes**
*DT, 6-3, 295*
The Hoboken, N.J., defensive tackle is the best of Rutgers' in-state recruits.

**4 — Logan Ryan**
*CB, 5-11, 175*
As a senior at Voorhees (N.J.) Eastern High, Ryan rushed for 836 yards and eight touchdowns and passed for 1,113 yards.

**5 — Antwan Lowery**
*DT, 6-4, 335*
Once Lowery hits the weight room, he could be scary. The lineman had an offer list that would make many prospects ranked above him blush.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***D.C. JEFFERSON, QB***

With an imposing build (6-6, 240 pounds), the former top recruit out of Winter Haven, Fla., could step in as Mike Teel's signal-calling successor.

# 5 CINCINNATI BEARCATS

Cincinnati was perhaps the Big East's biggest surprise in 2008. In just his second season, coach Brian Kelly guided the Bearcats to a Big East championship (as they won six of their final seven conference games) and a BCS bowl.

But after an Orange Bowl loss to Virginia Tech, Cincinnati returns just eight starters, with only one on defense. That doesn't include All-America punter Kevin Huber. Since they're starting from scratch on defense, it's probably not the worst time to switch from a 4-3 alignment to a 3-4, which they will operate at times under new defensive coordinator Bob Diaco.

It's not that the Bearcats' defense was bad last season. They ranked 31st nationally in total defense, allowing 321.9 yards per game and finished 19th in run defense (115.0 yards per game) while leading the Big East in sacks with 2.86 an outing.

But Kelly believes the 3-4 is more conducive to defending against the growing trend of spread offenses throughout college football.

The Bearcats must rebuild a defense that lost three first-team Big East players in lineman Connor Barwin, cornerback Mike Mickens and safety Brandon Underwood. Safety Aaron Webster is the lone returning starter. Though he didn't crack the lineup until the fifth game, Webster finished sixth on the team in tackles, recording 13 in a key overtime win at West Virginia.

The Bearcats might have two former quarterbacks on the defense. Craig Carey was switched to defensive end last year and Demetrius Jones is making the transition to linebacker.

Diaco is likely to give some time to Kelly's more recent recruits, including cornerback Dominique Battle, linebacker J.K. Schaffer and defensive tackle Derek Wolfe.

Offensively, the Bearcats averaged a modest 25.9 points and 370.6 yards per game, a big drop-off from 2007. That's what happens when injuries necessitate the use of five quarterbacks. Plus, the running game never lived up to expectations.

This year, the Bearcats are one of the few teams in the Big East that begin play with an established quarterback in senior Tony Pike, who has the skills to be the best passer in the league. A backup until last year, Pike took over in the second week after Dustin Grutza got hurt. Pike threw for 19 touchdowns and 2,407 yards despite battling injuries of his own.

The Bearcats must replace two second-team all-conference performers in wide receiver Dominick Goodman and tackle Trevor Canfield. Pike has a deep corps of receivers, including Mardy Gilyard, a first-team All-Big East player last season, along with Marcus Barnett, D.J. Woods and Armon Binns. He also has two quality tight ends in Ben Guidugli and Kazeem Alli. Veteran tackle Jeff Linkenbach and center Chris Jurek anchor the offensive line.

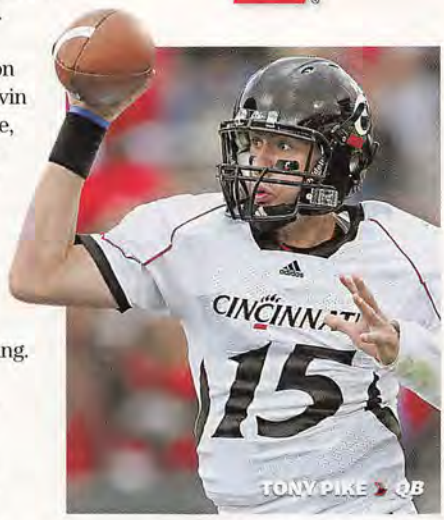
The no-huddle spread offense could get a boost from the development of young running backs Isaiah Pead and Darrin Williams. They will learn from starter Jacob Ramsey until they are game-ready.

Pead could have the biggest upside, having averaged 6.5 yards per carry in limited action last season.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***ISAIAH PEAD, RB***

A huge recruit in 2008 who chose Cincinnati over West Virginia and Pitt, Pead has big-play ability and the attention of the coaches.



TONY PIKE ▸ QB

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 11-3
**Big East:** 6-1
*(lost to Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl, 20-7)*

**Coach:** Brian Kelly
3rd year (22-6)
**Career record:** 41-22 (FBS)
**Offensive coordinator:**
Jeff Quinn (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Bob Diaco (1st year)

**Stadium:** Nippert Stadium (35,000)
**Tickets:** 877-CATS-TIX
**Site:** Cincinnati
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.gobearcats.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.7 | @RUTGERS | 13-10 |
| S.12 | Southeast Missouri State | |
| S.19 | @OREGON STATE | |
| S.26 | Fresno State | |
| O.3 | @MIAMI (OH) | 45-20 |
| O.15 | @SOUTH FLORIDA | 24-10 |
| O.24 | Louisville | 28-20 |
| O.31 | @SYRACUSE | 30-10 |
| N.7 | Connecticut | 16-40 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.13 West Virginia 26-23 (OT)**

This late-season affair with possible conference title implications will be a rematch of last year's overtime thriller, where the Bearcats won in Morgantown.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| N.27 | Illinois | |
| D.5 | @PITTSBURGH | 28-21 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** MIDDLE TIER BOWL
» INTERNATIONAL BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» Offense could return to school-record form of 2007.
» Change in defensive scheme with one starter is a tall order.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 15 | Tony Pike (6-6, 210, Sr.) |
| FB | 35 | Marcus Waugh (6-0, 270, Sr.) |
| RB | 20 | Jacob Ramsey (6-0, 216, Sr.) |
| LOT | 71 | Jeff Linkenbach (6-6, 311, Sr.) |
| LOG | 60 | Jason Kelce (6-4, 290, Jr.) |
| C | 56 | Chris Jurek (6-2, 286, Sr.) |
| ROG | 53 | Randy Martinez (6-1, 277, So.) |
| ROT | 68 | Craig Parmenter (6-5, 289, So.) |
| TE | 19 | Ben Guidugli (6-0, 237, Jr.) |
| WR | 80 | Armon Binns (6-4, 200, Jr.) |
| WR | 1 | Mardy Gilyard (6-1, 180, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LE | 89 | Alex Daniels (6-4, 259, Sr.) |
| DT | 90 | Ricardo Mathews (6-3, 294, Sr.) |
| DT | 40 | John Hughes (6-2, 305, So.) |
| RE* | 98 | Curtis Young (6-1, 269, Sr.) |
| SLB | 43 | Robby Armstrong (6-2, 222, Jr.) |
| MLB | 50 | Andre Revels (6-0, 221, Sr.) |
| WLB | 37 | J.K. Schaffer (6-1, 223, So.) |
| LCB | 32 | Justin Moore (5-10, 176, So.) |
| RCB | 9 | Dominique Battle (6-0, 184, So.) |
| FS | 25 | Brad Jones (6-1, 202, Sr.) |
| SS | 17 | Aaron Webster (6-2, 211, Sr.) |

** Young will play linebacker in 3-4 scheme*

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 97 | Jake Rogers (6-3, 205, Jr.) |
| P | 97 | Jake Rogers (6-3, 205, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1**
**Jamar Howard**
*WR, 6-4, 210*
The juco wideout from College of the Sequoias has the talent to be a big-time player. He could push for a starting position this fall.

**2**
**Chris Williams**
*CB, 5-11, 185*
Williams is a four-star prospect who turned down a lot of other schools to play for the Bearcats.

**3**
**Jordan Stepp**
*DT, 6-0, 286*
Stepp is a bit vertically challenged, but he has a powerful build and runs the 40-yard dash in an impressive 4.7 seconds.

**4**
**Malik James**
*CB, 6-1, 190*
James has the potential to be an immediate contributor. He has the size coaches love to match up against bigger wide receivers.

**5**
**Josh Jones**
*WR, 6-1, 205*
The local prospect has a strong build and moves well. He could be a problem for defensive coordinators if he gets a mismatch.

DAVID BUTLER II / US PRESSWIRE

# CONNECTICUT HUSKIES 6

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @OHIO | |
| S.12 | North Carolina | 12-38 |
| S.19 | @BAYLOR | 31-28 |
| S.26 | Rhode Island | |
| O.10 | @PITTSBURGH | 10-34 |
| O.17 | Louisville | 26-21 |
| O.24 | @WEST VIRGINIA | 13-35 |
| O.31 | Rutgers | 10-12 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| N.7 | @CINCINNATI | 40-16 |
| The Huskies blew out the Orange Bowl-bound Bearcats 40-16 at Storrs in 2008. | | |
| N.21 | @NOTRE DAME | |
| N.28 | Syracuse | 39-14 |
| D.5 | South Florida | 13-17 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL

» PAPAJOHNS.COM BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» Solid defense as usual, but questions in the passing game remain.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 10 | Zach Frazer (6-4, 231, Jr.) |
| FB | 49 | Anthony Sherman (5-10, 231, Jr.) |
| RB | 23 | Jordan Todman (5-9, 180, So.) |
| LOT | 72 | Jimmy Bennett (6-7, 300, Fr.) |
| LOG | 74 | Alex LaMagdelaine (6-2, 303, Sr.) |
| C | 57 | Moe Petrus (6-2, 276, So.) |
| ROG | 78 | Zach Hurd (6-7, 294, Jr.) |
| ROT | 79 | Mike Hicks (6-6, 321, Sr.) |
| TE | 93 | Derek Chard (6-3, 234, Jr.) |
| WR | 29 | Marcus Easley (6-2, 210, SR.) |
| WR | 82 | Kashif Moore (5-9, 174, So.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 9 | Lindsey Witten (6-4, 251, Sr.) |
| LDT | 99 | Kendall Reyes (6-2, 262, So.) |
| RDT | 4 | Tywon Martin (6-1, 265, So.) |
| RDE | 26 | Marcus Campbell (6-2, 232, Jr.) |
| SLB | 8 | Lawrence Wilson (6-1, 221, Jr.) |
| MLB | 32 | Scott Lutrus (6-2, 225, Jr.) |
| WLB | 95 | Greg Lloyd (6-1, 234, Jr.) |
| LCB | 42 | Robert McClain (5-9, 201, Sr.) |
| RCB | 6 | Jasper Howard (5-9, 174, Jr.) |
| FS | 33 | Robert Vaughn (6-0, 197, Sr.) |
| SS | 27 | Aaron Bagsby (6-1, 185, So.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

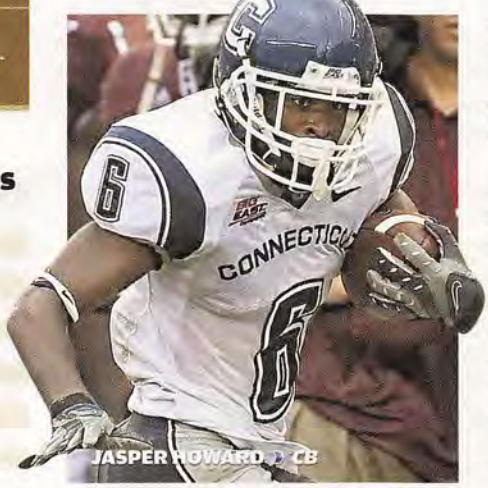
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 38 | Dave Teggart (6-0, 214, So.) |
| P | 13 | Desi Cullen (6-0, 201, Sr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5
**Big East:** 3-4
*(beat Buffalo in the International Bowl, 38-20)*

**Coach:** Randy Edsall
11th year (58-60)
**Career record:** 58-60
**Offensive coordinator:**
Joe Moorhead (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Toll Orlando (5th year)

**Stadium:** Rentschler Field (40,000)
**Tickets:** 877-288-2666
**Site:** Storrs
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.uconnhuskies.com




CHRISTOPHER SZAGOLA / CSM / ZUMA

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

| | |
|---|---|
| '04 | 8 |
| '05 | 5 |
| '06 | 4 |
| '07 | 9 |
| '08 | 7 |

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

In a conference full of upstart programs, Connecticut is perhaps the most remarkable story. Still only in their eighth year of Football Bowl Subdivision competition, the Huskies are coming off a season in which they blew out eventual conference champion Cincinnati and appeared in a second straight bowl game.

Expectations have become so lofty around Storrs that last year's 8-5 season, capped by a win over Buffalo in the International Bowl, was viewed as a disappointment, even with now-departed tailback Donald Brown collecting all sorts of accolades.

So as coach Randy Edsall embarks on his 11th season, he'll have to maintain the program's success while replacing the school's best-ever player (Brown), along with left tackle William Beatty, defensive end Cody Brown and cornerback Darius Butler, all of whom were NFL draft selections.

As usual, the Huskies will look to bring their passing game to the level of their running attack. That's been an issue ever since quarterback Dan Orlovsky's final season in 2004.

New offensive coordinator Joe Moorhead has installed a no-huddle attack with more emphasis on the passing game. Like most Big East programs, the Huskies must also break in a new quarterback. Tyler Lorenzen missed four games due to injury in '08, which allowed sophomore Cody Endres and junior Zach Frazer to each started a pair of games.

Tailback Andre Dixon was part of a double-barreled running attack with Brown in '07, but didn't factor last season. He'll have to hold off Jordan Todman, who gained 296 yards last season as a freshman.

The Huskies are experienced at wide receiver. Sophomore Kashif Moore led the team in receptions (27) and improved as the season progressed. Senior Marcus Easley saw considerable playing time while classmate Brad Kanuch struggled through an injury, but entered spring ball healthy.

The offensive line must replace Beatty and center Keith Gray. Senior Alex LaMagdelaine played in one game last year before being shut down by a shoulder injury, but returns to play left guard. Mike Hicks comes back at right tackle. UConn also returns both Zach Hurd and Moe Petrus, a Freshman All-American last year.

The Huskies ranked sixth in total defense a year ago but must replace five starters, including defensive ends Brown and Julius Williams. They do have experience at the position with senior Lindsey Witten and junior Marcus Campbell, who were both part of the regular rotation. Despite losing longtime starter Rob Lunn at defensive tackle, the Huskies have a pair of sophomores back in Tywon Martin and Kendall Reyes.

Scott Lutrus moved from outside to middle linebacker and became a disruptive force in '08, leading the team with 106 tackles and earning second-team all-conference honors.

Safety Robert Vaughn started all 13 games last year and was third on the team with 67 tackles.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Dwayne Difton**
*WR, 5-11, 166*
Difton might not be the kind of guy who earns all-conference honors right away, but he has that kind of potential.

**2 — Steve Greene**
*OG, 6-4, 302*
Greene has the size and physicality to push for a position on the depth chart early on.

**3 — Malik Generett**
*WR, 6-4, 197*
Given his outstanding height, Generett has the potential to be a go-to guy down the road.

**4 — Trevardo Williams**
*DE, 6-3, 210*
Though Williams needs to gain weight, he has the instincts, tenacity and tackling ability to be a big-time playmaker.

**5 — Marcus Aiken**
*WR, 6-1, 175*
Aiken is a good all-around receiver who will run crisp routes and catch most of the balls thrown his way.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***GERRARD SHEPPARD, WR***

The redshirt freshman turned down basketball scholarships from some ACC schools to play Big East football. He played just one year of high school football, but was rated the top receiver in the Baltimore area after scoring 10 TDs as a prep senior.

# 7 LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

The Cardinals are light-years removed from 2006, when they went 12-1 and won the Big East championship and the Orange Bowl in Bobby Petrino's final season.

Steve Kragthorpe must have figured it would be easy to build on that momentum, but he's just 11-13 with no bowl appearances since coming to Louisville two seasons ago. The Cardinals went 5-2 last fall before dropping their last five games.

Like most of the conference, Louisville will begin the year with an inexperienced quarterback, which is unusual for a team that counted on Hunter Cantwell and Brian Brohm in recent years.

The Cardinals averaged just 376.2 yards of total offense last season—their lowest output since 2002—prompting Kragthorpe to serve as his own offensive coordinator this year. He'll likely turn to either Adam Froman or Justin Burke to succeed Cantwell at quarterback.

Froman, a junior-college All-American, threw for 3,876 yards and 40 touchdowns at Santa Rosa (Calif.) Junior College. Burke, who played in three games for N.C. State in 2007, sat out last season after transferring.

Victor Anderson was named the 2008 Big East Rookie of the Year after rushing for 1,047 yards as a redshirt freshman, averaging 5.7 yards on 183 carries.

Senior wide receiver Scott Long is expected back after tearing his ACL last October and missing spring practice. With Long out for most of last season, junior Doug Beaumont stepped up, leading the Cardinals with 62 receptions for 750 yards and earning second-team all-conference honors.

It's been a long time since the Cardinals entered a season without All-Big East linemen Eric Wood and George Bussey. They do return both tackles in Jeff Adams and Greg Tomczyk. Junior left guard Mark Wetterer is coming off knee surgery and Abdul Kuyateh starts at right guard. At center, redshirt freshman Mario Benavides will replace Wood, a four-year starter.

The Cardinals return seven starters to their 4-3 defense and 11 players who started at some point last season. New coordinator Brent Guy, who spent the last four seasons as Utah State's head coach, has pledged a more attacking style, and he has the talent to implement it.

The strength of the unit is its linebackers, including leading tackler Jon Dempsey, a second-team All-Big East performer at the middle spot. Junior Antwon Canady was sixth on the team in tackles and will assume the weakside position.

The Cardinals must rebuild a defensive line that lost its two starting tackles in Earl Heyman and Adrian Grady.

Sophomore left end Greg Scruggs was thrust into a starting role late in the year as a true freshman and could blossom in '09. L.D. Scott will move to nose tackle.

Louisville must replace three players from the secondary, but returns Johnny Patrick, who has emerged as one of the better cornerbacks in the conference.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***BRANDON HEATH, LB***

A former top 100 recruit out of south Florida, Heath could be a late bloomer as a junior. He spent the spring as a "rover backer," a new hybrid linebacker/safety position perfect for the former safety.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Indiana State | |
| S.19 | @KENTUCKY | 2-27 |
| S.26 | @UTAH | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**0.2 Pittsburgh** **7-41**

This Big East opener on a Friday night at home should show how much—or if—the Cardinals have rebounded.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0.10 | Southern Miss | |
| 0.17 | @CONNECTICUT | 21-26 |
| 0.24 | @CINCINNATI | 20-28 |
| 0.31 | Arkansas State | |
| N.7 | @WEST VIRGINIA | 21-35 |
| N.14 | Syracuse | 21-28 |
| N.21 | @SOUTH FLORIDA | 24-20 |
| N.27 | Rutgers | 14-63 |

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Good talent and athleticism.
- Brutal schedule and inexperience will be tough to overcome.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7
**Big East:** 1-6

**Coach:** Steve Kragthorpe
3rd year (11-13)
**Career record:** 40-35
**Offensive coordinator:**
Steve Kragthorpe (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Brent Guy (1st year)

**Stadium:** Papa John's Cardinal Stadium (42,000)
**Tickets:** 800-633-7105
**Site:** Louisville, Ky.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.uoflsports.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 13 | Justin Burke (6-3, 229, Jr.) |
| RB | 20 | Victor Anderson (5-9, 185, r-So.) |
| RB | 33 | Bilal Powell (6-0, 215, Jr.) |
| LOT | 76 | Greg Tomczyk (6-6, 298, Jr.) |
| LOG | 79 | Mark Wetterer (6-5, 309, Jr.) |
| C | 60 | Mario Benavides (6-4, 290, r-Fr.) |
| ROG | 71 | Abdul Kuyateh (6-2, 305, Sr.) |
| ROT | 74 | Jeff Adams (6-8, 305, Jr.) |
| TE | 82 | Pete Nochta (6-5, 244, Jr.) |
| WR | 27 | Doug Beaumont (5-9, 183, Jr.) |
| WR | 84 | Scott Long (6-2, 214, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 11 | Greg Scruggs (6-4, 250, So.) |
| LDT | 56 | Tyler Jessen (6-1, 284, Sr.) |
| RDT | 93 | L.D. Scott (6-2, 272, Sr.) |
| RDE | 58 | Rodney Gnat (6-3, 253, Jr.) |
| SLB | 5 | Brandon Heath (6-1, 212, Jr.) |
| MLB | 38 | Jon Dempsey (6-0, 241, Sr.) |
| WLB | 51 | Antwon Canady (6-0, 244, Jr.) |
| LCB | 7 | Karldell Dunning (6-0, 162, So.) |
| RCB | 19 | Johnny Patrick (6-0, 186, Jr.) |
| FS | 2 | Richard Raglin (6-2, 202, Sr.) |
| SS | 30 | Daniel Covington (5-11, 206, Sr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 17 | Tim Dougherty (5-10, 172, Jr.) |
| P | 29 | Cory Goettsche (6-1, 222, Sr.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1**
**Joe Evinger**
*OT, 6-7, 340*
The Cardinals raided the junior-college ranks to find Evinger. He has the long arms that are ideal for a tackle.

**2**
**Sean Farr**
*WR, 6-2, 180*
Farr runs well, is smooth in the open field, fluid in his motion and turns upfield quickly after catching the ball.

**3**
**Mike Privott**
*LB, 5-10, 233*
Privott doesn't have great speed but does have a motor that won't stop, and he's a sure tackler.

**4**
**Adam Froman**
*QB, 6-3, 215*
Though he is listed as a pro-style quarterback, Froman runs the 40-yard dash in 4.46 seconds and is a run threat.

**5**
**Isaac Geffard**
*S, 6-2, 186*
While he needs to get stronger, coaches think Geffard could make a quick impact for the Cardinals.

ANDY LYONS / GETTY IMAGES

# SYRACUSE ORANGE 8

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Minnesota | |
| S.12 | @PENN STATE | 13-55 |
| S.19 | Northwestern | 10-30 |
| S.26 | Maine | |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **0.3** | **South Florida** | **13-45** |
| This Big East opener follows a tough nonconference schedule and should be an early indicator of how improved the Orange will be under Doug Marrone. | | |
| 0.10 | West Virginia | 6-17 |
| 0.24 | Akron | 28-42 |
| 0.31 | Cincinnati | 10-30 |
| N.7 | @PITTSBURGH | 24-34 |
| N.14 | @LOUISVILLE | 28-21 |
| N.21 | Rutgers | 17-35 |
| N.28 | @CONNECTICUT | 14-39 |

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE D

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Return of Mike Williams and a healthy Delone Carter will help.
- Rebuilding process will start slow.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 4 | Cameron Dantley (6-1, 218, Sr.) |
| FB | 48 | Carl Cutler (6-1, 234, Fr.) |
| RB | 3 | Delone Carter (5-10, 214, Jr.) |
| LOT | 77 | Tucker Baumbach (6-5, 307, Jr.) |
| LOG | 70 | Ryan Bartholomew (6-3, 290, Jr.) |
| C | 60 | Jim McKenzie (6-4, 286, Jr.) |
| ROG | 76 | Ian Allport (6-4, 300, r-Fr.) |
| ROT | 73 | Jonathan Meldrum (6-5, 303, Jr.) |
| TE | 85 | Mike Owen (6-4, 251, Sr.) |
| WR | 11 | Lavar Lobdell (6-3, 210, Sr.) |
| WR | 1 | Mike Williams (6-2, 204, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 90 | Jared Kimmel (6-6, 259, Jr.) |
| LDT | 97 | Arthur Jones (6-4, 291, Sr.) |
| RDT | 51 | Andrew Lewis (6-3, 282, Jr.) |
| RDE | 54 | Mikhail Marinovich (6-4, 232, So.) |
| SLB | 25 | Derrell Smith (6-1, 224, Jr.) |
| MLB | 50 | Mike Mele (6-0, 218, Jr.) |
| WLB | 46 | Parker Cantey (6-3, 218, Jr.) |
| LCB | 26 | Kevyn Scott (5-11, 197, So.) |
| RCB | 28 | Nico Scott (5-10, 180, Jr.) |
| FS | 35 | Michael Holmes (5-11, 185, Jr.) |
| SS | 24 | Max Suter (5-11, 190, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 39 | Austin Wallis (5-10, 185, Fr.) |
| P | 47 | Rob Long (6-4, 175, Jr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 3-9
**Big East:** 1-6

**Coach:** Doug Marrone, 1st year
**Offensive coordinator:** Rob Spence (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:** Scott Shafer (1st year)

**Stadium:** Carrier Dome
**Tickets:** 888-366-3849
**Site:** Syracuse, N.Y.
**Official athletic Web site:** www.suathletics.com

DELONE CARTER / RB

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

| | |
|---|---|
| '04 | 6 |
| '05 | 1 |
| '06 | 4 |
| '07 | 2 |
| '08 | 3 |

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

Doug Marrone has done his best to purge the memories of the Greg Robinson era and connect his alma mater back to the mid-1980s, when the Orange was a winning program.

So he brought back red practice jerseys for the defense, green for the offense and white for the quarterbacks, a tradition instituted by former coach Dick MacPherson. Before spring practice, Robinson recycled another custom: burning a pair of practice shoes to rid the team of bad memories.

Whether the theatrics will translate into more wins for a team that went 10-37 under Robinson remains to be seen. If nothing else, there's excitement among players not seen since perhaps the early days of the Paul Pasqualoni era.

As offensive coordinator and offensive line coach for the New Orleans Saints, Marrone grew accustomed to having elite talent at his disposal. And he has one in wideout Mike Williams, who was suspended last season for academic reasons.

A second-team all-conference selection in 2007, Williams caught at least one touchdown in nine consecutive games and tied a Syracuse record with 60 receptions in a season.

Senior quarterback Cameron Dantley wasn't that impressive as a starter last season, completing just 121 of 251 passes for 11 touchdowns and five interceptions. But he begins the year as one of the Big East's most experienced passers, behind South Florida's Matt Grothe and Cincinnati's Tony Pike.

Injuries have derailed the career of junior Delone Carter, who rushed for 713 yards and earned *Sporting News* Freshman All-America honors in 2006. He dislocated a hip and missed all of 2007 and was hampered by hamstring problems last season, but begins this year as the starter.

Williams will be Dantley's No. 1 target, but the Orange are deep at receiver with Lavar Lobdell and Donte Davis. Senior tight end Mike Owen (19 catches, 2 TDs) is also a reliable target.

The offensive line returns three starters in left tackle Tucker Baumbach, left guard Ryan Bartholomew and center Jim McKenzie. Redshirt freshman Ian Allport and junior Jonathan Meldrum are the projected starters at right guard and right tackle, respectively.

The 4-3 defense is led by nose tackle Arthur Jones, who already ranks among the Orange's all-time greats. The first-team All-Big East selection is sixth on the school's career tackles-for-loss list with 31.5.

Jones stayed for his senior season in part to play with younger brother Chandler, a redshirt freshman who took first-team reps at end and could challenge sophomore Mikhail Marinovich for the position later in the season. The younger Jones could bolster a position that didn't produce in '08.

The Orange has experience at linebacker with Derrell Smith (strong side) and Mike Mele (middle). Junior Parker Cantey is the projected starter on the weak side. Cornerbacks Kevyn Scott and Nico Scott and safeties Max Suter and Michael Holmes all return with experience.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Andrew Tiller**
*OT, 6-6, 320*
Tiller, a nice surprise on National Signing Day, is strong, long and college-ready.

**2 — Dale Peterman**
*CB, 5-10, 155*
The Ohio native will need to hit the weight room before he can contribute, but has the speed to excel.

**3 — Phillip Thomas**
*S, 6-0, 178*
Thomas runs well and has excellent leaping ability. So expect him to be solid in coverage when he eventually plays.

**4 — Rishard Anderson**
*CB, 6-0, 171*
Anderson does not have the game-breaking speed, but he is strong and has good size for a corner.

**5 — Torrey Ball**
*DE, 6-4, 250*
This junior-college transfer could contribute immediately. He does have a good motor.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***CHANDLER JONES, DE***

He's taller and lighter than his brother, Arthur, and likely to break the starting lineup as a redshirt freshman. He could be a chief beneficiary of his brother's double teams.

SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

# BIG TEN

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

1 Ohio State
2 Penn State
3 Michigan State
4 Iowa
5 Illinois
6 Michigan
7 Wisconsin
8 Minnesota
9 Northwestern
10 Purdue
11 Indiana

## Look for a tight race, but there won't be any national championship rings

**By Michael Bradley,** *correspondent*

If you liked the 2008 Big Ten football campaign, then you're going to love the '09 season. Many of the same storylines will be unfolding, and the same hierarchy of teams—with some small adjustments—will be in effect. The one thing that doesn't seem to be an issue this year—for the first time in a while—is no conference team seems likely to make a legitimate run at a spot in the BCS title game. Oh, Penn State's cushy nonconference slate will give it some early buzz, and Ohio State could gather quick momentum by dispatching USC in September, but compared to the nation's bruisers, the Big Ten doesn't measure up.

The conference title tussle appears to be another Ohio State-Penn State affair, since both the Buckeyes and Nittany Lions return their starting quarterbacks and several other playmakers. Of particular interest is the continued development of Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor, who impressed at times during his freshman debut but also struggled throwing the ball.

If there is another challenger for the top spot, it should come from the Michigan State/Iowa pairing. Wisconsin and Illinois will try to recapture past glories after taking steps back in 2008. There will be considerable interest surrounding Minnesota, which opens a new outdoor stadium and tries to erase the ugly memories of the second half of '08. The arrival of new coordinator Kevin Cosgrove will be watched closely, since it was the Gopher defense that absorbed much of the blame for the team's collapse. Another new coach, Danny Hope, who is at the top of the Purdue organizational chart, will try to lift the Boilers out of the second division.

Michigan coach Rich Rodriguez survived a 3-9 campaign and roped in a highly regarded recruiting class. Now, he must find a way for his heralded offensive system to take root in time to keep the agitated Wolverine community from trading him in. Michigan's slide is a big reason for the conference's drop in national esteem, and the quicker Rodriguez can get the Maize-and-Blue back to the top, the better it will be for everybody. Until then, the Big Ten can count on plenty of excitement but not too much in the way of big-time attention.

## RATING THE PLAYERS

**Fastest Receiver**
Arrelious Benn, WR, Illinois

**Best Hands**
Eric Decker, WR, Minnesota

**Best Passing QB**
Darryl Clark, Penn State

**Best Running QB**
Terrelle Pryor, Ohio State

**Most Elusive RB**
Evan Royster, Penn State

**Best Instincts**
Terrelle Pryor, QB, Ohio State

**Best Athlete**
Arrelious Benn, WR, Illinois

**Best Under Pressure**
Ricky Stanzi, QB, Iowa

**Top NFL Prospect**
Sean Lee, LB, Penn State

**Top Impact Freshman**
Tate Forcier, QB, Michigan

**Hardest Hitter**
Greg Jones, LB, Michigan State

**Biggest Underachiever**
Juice Williams, QB, Illinois

**Best Home-Field Advantage**
Ohio State

**Best Fans**
Penn State

**Best Mascot**
Nittany Lion, Penn State

**Best Stadium**
Kinnick Stadium, Iowa

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Jeremy Crabtree, *Rivals.com*

**1. OHIO STATE** The Buckeyes did their damage in their own back yard, but they went national to get corner Corey Brown.
**2. MICHIGAN** Big Blue found quarterback Tate Forcier and athlete Jeremy Gallon, among others.
**3. MICHIGAN STATE** The Spartans surprised many by getting quarterback Andrew Maxwell, who has all the tools to be a star.
**4. PENN STATE** The Nittany Lions went heavy on the O-line and there are some great ones in this group led by Eric Shrive.
**5. ILLINOIS** The Illini added a lot of impact players and have budding stars in quarterback Nathan Scheelhasse and receiver Terry Hawthorne.
**6. MINNESOTA** While this Gopher class isn't as newsworthy as the '08 group, it is a solid, all-around effort by the coaches.
**7. WISCONSIN** This Badgers class fills holes at almost every position, which is a successful formula in Madison.
**8. NORTHWESTERN** Quarterback Evan Watkins has the tools to start, tailback Arby Fields was a steal out of California and the offensive-line class is stout.
**9. INDIANA** The Hoosiers scored two playmakers at quarterback in Dusty Kiel and Edward Wright-Baker.
**10. IOWA** The Hawkeyes kept star running back Brandon Wegher in the state. Ohio's Brad Rogers has a shot to be a steal as a big, bruising back.
**11. PURDUE** The Boilermakers longed for more speed, and got it with talent from the Sunshine State.

## ASCENDING

**MINNESOTA** Even though the Gophers fell apart down the stretch last year, they won six more games than in '07 and return a lot of talent.

## DESCENDING

**WISCONSIN** Quarterback problems are the beginning of the worries in Madison, as the talent level appears to have dropped.

## ALL-BIG TEN

### OFFENSE

QB Darryl Clark, Sr., Penn State
RB Evan Royster, Jr., Penn State
RB John Clay, So., Wisconsin
OL Stefen Wisniewski, Jr., Penn State
OL Bryan Bulaga, Jr., Iowa
OL Stephen Schilling, Jr., Michigan
OL Joel Foreman, So., Michigan State
OL Gabe Carimi, Jr., Wisconsin
TE Garrett Graham, Sr., Wisconsin
WR Eric Decker, Sr., Minnesota
WR Arrelious Benn, Jr., Illinois

### DEFENSE

DL Corey Wootton, Sr., Northwestern
DL Jared Odrick, Sr., Penn State
DL Jammie Kirlew, Sr., Indiana
DL Brandon Graham, Sr., Michigan
LB Sean Lee, Sr., Penn State
LB Greg Jones, Jr., Michigan State
LB Navorro Bowman, Jr., Penn State
DB Traye Simmons, Sr., Minnesota
DB Brad Phillips, Sr., Northwestern
DB Kurt Coleman, Sr., Ohio State
DB Amari Spievey, Jr., Iowa

### SPECIALISTS

K Philip Welch, So., Wisconsin
P Zoltan Mesko, Sr., Michigan

## FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1 Barring any serious illness, Joe Paterno isn't going anywhere. The Penn State boss has proven he can still coach.

2 Michigan will be improved, as the young Wolverines grasp Rich Rodriguez's system better and become more effective, particularly on offense.

3 Even though Michigan State and Iowa both lost feature backs, each will develop a strong running game that keeps them near the top of the conference.

4 Wisconsin will continue to have quarterback issues throughout the season, resulting in a second-division finish that turns up the heat on Bret Bielema.

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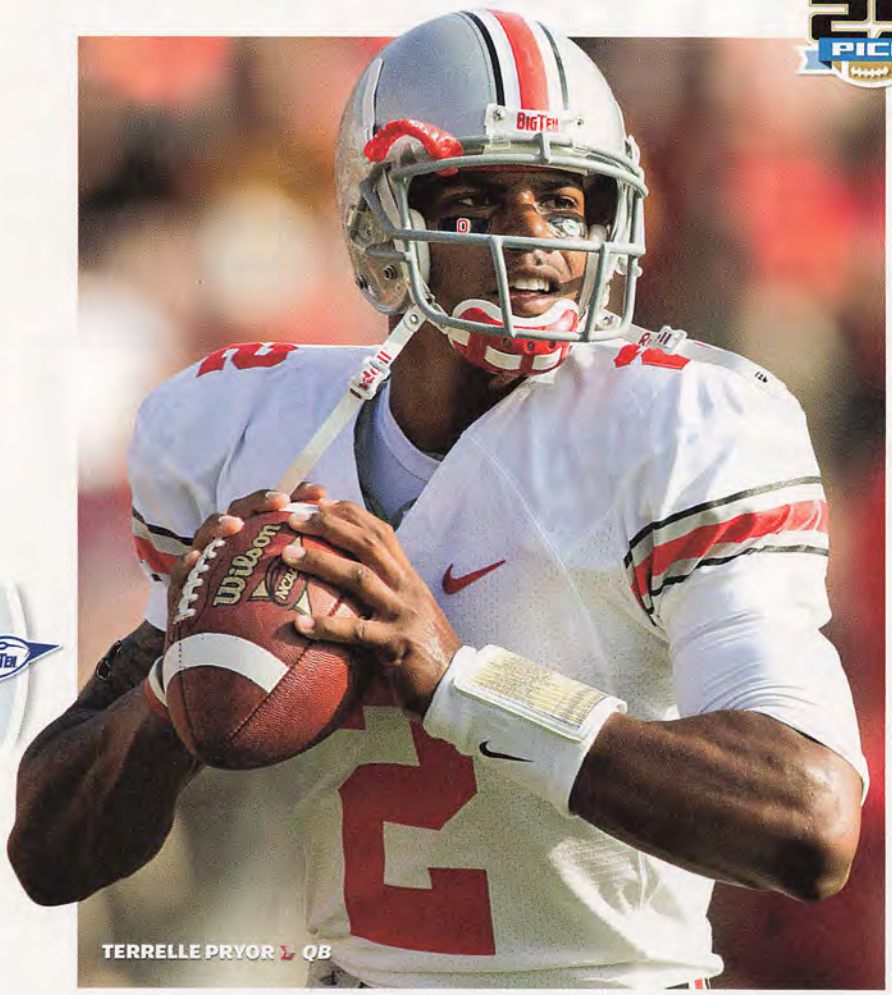
BIG TEN PRESEASON RANK

# 1 OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

TOP 25 PICK



TERRELLE PRYOR ▸ QB

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Navy | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

| S.12 | USC | 3-35 |
|---|---|---|

This means nothing in the Big Ten standings, but the Buckeyes need to knock off a strong nonconference foe to gain national respect.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.19 | @TOLEDO* | |
| S.26 | Illinois | 30-20 |
| O.3 | @INDIANA | |
| O.10 | Wisconsin | 20-17 |
| O.17 | @PURDUE | 16-3 |
| O.24 | Minnesota | 34-21 |
| O.31 | New Mexico State | |
| N.7 | @PENN STATE | 6-13 |
| N.14 | Iowa | |
| N.21 | @MICHIGAN | 42-7 |

** at Cleveland, OH*

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» ROSE BOWL

BCS BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ A-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Has more talent than any other Big Ten team.
- Could be explosive if Pryor emerges as a consistent threat.
- Has the motivation to improve on last season.

There are some who would consider it over the top to take shots at the Buckeyes, who have been the conference's gold standard for much of this decade. They have won or shared the last four conference titles and played in two of the last three BCS National Championship games. But when you establish high standards and don't reach them, people are going to criticize. Just ask Oklahoma.

The Buckeyes had a fine '08 season by most schools' criteria, but their three losses came to top-10 teams and were on the heels of the humbling defeat at the hands of Florida in '07 BCS title game. Ohio State has been good, but it hasn't been able to make a big splash nationally.

Will that change in '09? We'll find out quickly, since USC visits The Horseshoe on Sept. 12 to give OSU a chance to prove its ability to step outside of its back yard and knock off a bully from another neighborhood. You can bet there will be plenty of people using that game as a way of determining whether Ohio State—and by extension the Big Ten—is capable of competing with the big dogs.

Can the Buckeyes do that and gather the necessary momentum to carry them through the Big Ten and past a first-rate bowl opponent?

Right now, the answer is no.

The loss of seven offensive starters, including running back Beanie Wells and wideout Brian Robiskie—along with the departures of defensive playmakers James Laurinaitis, Marcus Freeman and Malcolm Jenkins—leave the Buckeyes in a rebuilding mode, even though that term is not necessarily welcome in Columbus.

Still, finding a new ground-game standout, revamping the linebacking corps and upgrading the secondary won't be easy. Throw in the continuing saga of an offensive line that didn't perform well last year, and you can see why it's hard to throw a resounding stamp of approval on these Buckeyes and turn them out in the bright national spotlight.

At least Terrelle Pryor returns at quarterback. Some may wonder if that's a good thing, given the rookie's growing pains last year, but there's no denying Pryor's skills and his fit for the spread offense. The question is whether he'll be more accomplished in it this year and if he'll be able to get the ball downfield more in the passing game.

What is certain is some form of change in the way the Buckeyes attack defenses. They will vary the formations, using Pryor in a modified "pistol" formation, about four yards behind center with a tailback

JAY DROWNS / SN

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

| Terrelle Pryor | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
| 13 | 146.50 | 165-100-4 | 60.6 | 1311 | 12 | 100.8 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Terrelle Pryor | 13 | 139 | 631 | 4.5 | 6 | 48.5 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dane Sanzenbacher | 8 | 21 | 272 | 13.0 | 1 | 34.0 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kurt Coleman | 12 | 43 | 35 | 78 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Thaddeus Gibson | 13 | 5 | 27 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kurt Coleman | 4 | 18 | 4.5 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 10-3
**Big Ten:** 7-1
*(lost to Texas in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, 24-21)*

**Coach:** Jim Tressel
9th year (83-19)
**Career record:** 83-19
**Offensive coordinator:**
Jim Bollman (9th year)
**Defensive coordinators:**
Jim Heacock (5th year) and Luke Fickell (5th year)

**Stadium:** Ohio Stadium (102,329)
**Tickets:** 800-GO-BUCKS
**Site:** Columbus
**Official athletic Web site:**
ohiostatebuckeyes.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 2 | Terrelle Pryor (6-6, 235, So.) |
| | 14 | Joe Bauserman (6-2, 220, So.) |
| FB | 41 | Jermil Martin (6-0, 227, Fr.) |
| | 37 | James Georgiades (6-1, 240, Fr.) |
| RB | 1 | Dan Herron (5-10, 193, So.) |
| | 3 | Brandon Saine (6-1, 217, Jr.) |
| LOT | 64 | Jim Cordle (6-4, 297, Sr.) |
| | 73 | Josh Kerr (6-4, 286, Jr.) |
| LOG | 70 | Bryant Browning (6-4, 312, Jr.) |
| | 68 | Evan Blankenship (6-3, 290, So.) |
| C | 50 | Michael Brewster (6-5, 296, So.) |
| | 66 | Andrew Moses (6-3, 280, Sr.) |
| ROG | 56 | Justin Boren (6-3, 320, Sr.) |
| | 77 | Connor Smith (6-4, 321, Jr.) |
| ROT | 74 | Mike Adams (6-8, 322, So.) |
| | 55 | Andy Miller (6-6, 279, Jr.) |
| TE | 86 | Jake Ballard (6-6, 256, Sr.) |
| | 81 | Nic DiLillo (6-5, 237, Fr.) |
| WR | 8 | DeVier Posey (6-3, 205, So.) |
| | 15 | Lamaar Thomas (5-11, 186, So.) |
| WR | 12 | Dane Sanzenbacher (5-11, 175, Jr.) |
| | 82 | Ray Small (5-11, 180, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 90 | Thaddeus Gibson (6-2, 240, Jr.) |
| | 43 | Nathan Williams (6-4, 245, So.) |
| LDT | 84 | Doug Worthington (6-6, 276, Sr.) |
| | 53 | Garrett Goebel (6-5, 280, Fr.) |
| RDT | 72 | Dexter Larimore (6-2, 300, Jr.) |
| | 92 | Todd Denlinger (6-2, 292, Sr.) |
| RDE | 97 | Cameron Heyward (6-6, 287, Jr.) |
| | 9 | Robert Rose (6-5, 285, Jr.) |
| SLB | 26 | Tyler Moeller (6-0, 216, Jr.) |
| | 41 | Tony Jackson (5-11, 227, So.) |
| MLB | 38 | Austin Spitler (6-3, 234, Sr.) |
| | 11 | Etienne Sabino (6-3, 232, So.) |
| WLB | 51 | Ross Homan (6-0, 229, Jr.) |
| | 36 | Brian Rolle (5-11, 221, Jr.) |
| LCB | 13 | Andre Amos (6-1, 183, Sr.) |
| | 18 | Travis Howard (6-1, 180, Fr.) |
| RCB | 5 | Chimdi Chekwa (6-0, 188, Jr.) |
| | 10 | Devon Torrence (6-1, 193, Jr.) |
| FS | 21 | Anderson Russell (6-0, 205, Sr.) |
| | 8 | Aaron Gant (6-0, 194, Sr.) |
| SS | 4 | Kurt Coleman (5-11, 188, Sr.) |
| | 7 | Jermale Hines (6-2, 210, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PK | 20 | Aaron Pettrey (6-2, 199, Sr.) |
| P | 48 | Jon Thoma (6-2, 201, Sr.) |

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | OSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 359 | 181 |
| Points Per Game | 27.6 | 13.9 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 230 | 232 |
| Rushing | 133 | 96 |
| Passing | 82 | 117 |
| Penalty | 15 | 19 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2502 | 1433 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2880 | 1781 |
| Yards lost rushing | 378 | 348 |
| Rushing Attempts | 540 | 406 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.6 | 3.5 |
| Average Per Game | 192.5 | 110.2 |
| TDs Rushing | 21 | 7 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 1953 | 2386 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 267-160-6 | 440-253-15 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.3 | 5.4 |
| Average Per Catch | 12.2 | 9.4 |
| Average Per Game | 150.2 | 183.5 |
| TDs Passing | 17 | 12 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4455 | 3819 |
| Total Plays | 807 | 846 |
| Average Per Play | 5.5 | 4.5 |
| Average Per Game | 342.7 | 293.8 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 33-633 | 58-1015 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 35-455 | 16-66 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 15-105 | 6-82 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | OSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 19.2 | 17.5 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 13.0 | 4.1 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 7.0 | 13.7 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 15-7 | 24-14 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 68-567 | 60-507 |
| Average Per Game | 43.6 | 39.0 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 60-2445 | 80-3114 |
| Average Per Punt | 40.8 | 38.9 |
| Net punt average | 38.0 | 32.0 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 31:42 | 28:18 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 74/172 | 66/187 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 43% | 35% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 4/9 | 11/18 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 44% | 61% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 28-223 | 29-195 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 42 | 21 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 22-27 | 11-14 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 39-40 | 20-20 |
| ATTENDANCE | 1469660 | 725150 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 14/104976 | 10/72515 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 2/72047 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ohio State | 97 | 90 | 47 | 125 | 359 |
| Opponent | 24 | 60 | 51 | 46 | 181 |

JAY DROWNS / SN

behind him. Ohio State may put Pryor in the shotgun between a pair of backs, using motion to create confusion for opponents. He may even be under center with backs in the I-formation. It will all be designed to showcase what Pryor can do while still staying true to coach Jim Tressel's running-game-and-defense credo.

Whether he throws it well could be a function of OSU's receiving corps, which loses not only Robiskie but Brian Hartline. None of the key returnees—Dane Sanzenbacher, DeVier Posey, Ray Small and Lamaar Thomas—has distinguished himself as of yet, so there might well be immediate work for freshmen Duron Carter and James Jackson.

Finding a replacement for Wells might be a little easier. After all, sophomore Dan Herron played well last season while Wells battled a foot injury. He changes directions well and might be deployed with junior Brandon Saine, who was a valuable weapon in '07 but struggled with a hamstring injury last season. A pair of freshmen, Jaamal Berry and Carlos Hyde, will get the chance to impress, too.

The line struggled last year and changes were made. Three starters return, and Michigan transfer Justin Boren finally gets a chance to play. Expect a more physical unit.

The Buckeyes' defensive unit was its usual stout self against the run last year, but losing Laurinaitis and Freeman will make OSU vulnerable this season. That's why the front four, which brings back three starters, must be more effective in stuffing players, so that new starters Austin Spitler and Tyler Moeller can find the ball.

The back line loses Jenkins, but strong safety Kurt Coleman is back after registering 78 tackles and picking off four passes in '08. Chimdi Chekwa will play one corner, and coaches are waiting to see if freshman Corey Brown will shine in fall camp and unseat Andre Amos. Expect the coverages to be simple early on as the Buckeyes build some secondary depth.

The return games are in great shape, thanks to Small's prowess bringing back punts, and Thomas' skill returning kicks.

Aaron Pettrey made seven of eight field-goal tries last year, mostly the long-range variety, including a 54-yarder, so that position is secure. But Jon Thoma, who punted just twice last year, must prove himself quickly or lose his spot to redshirt freshman Ben Buchanan.

## RECRUITING REPORT

The Buckeyes jumped out of the gate early, securing a majority of their commitments before the recruiting season got into high gear.

As always, Ohio State harvested a bumper crop in its own back yard and went national to score some other key prospects, such as five-star linebacker **Dorian Bell** and five-star cornerback **Corey Brown** from Pennsylvania. More skill-position help is on the way with wide receiver **Duron Carter** and running back **Jaamal Berry**. The secondary also received a major injection of speed.

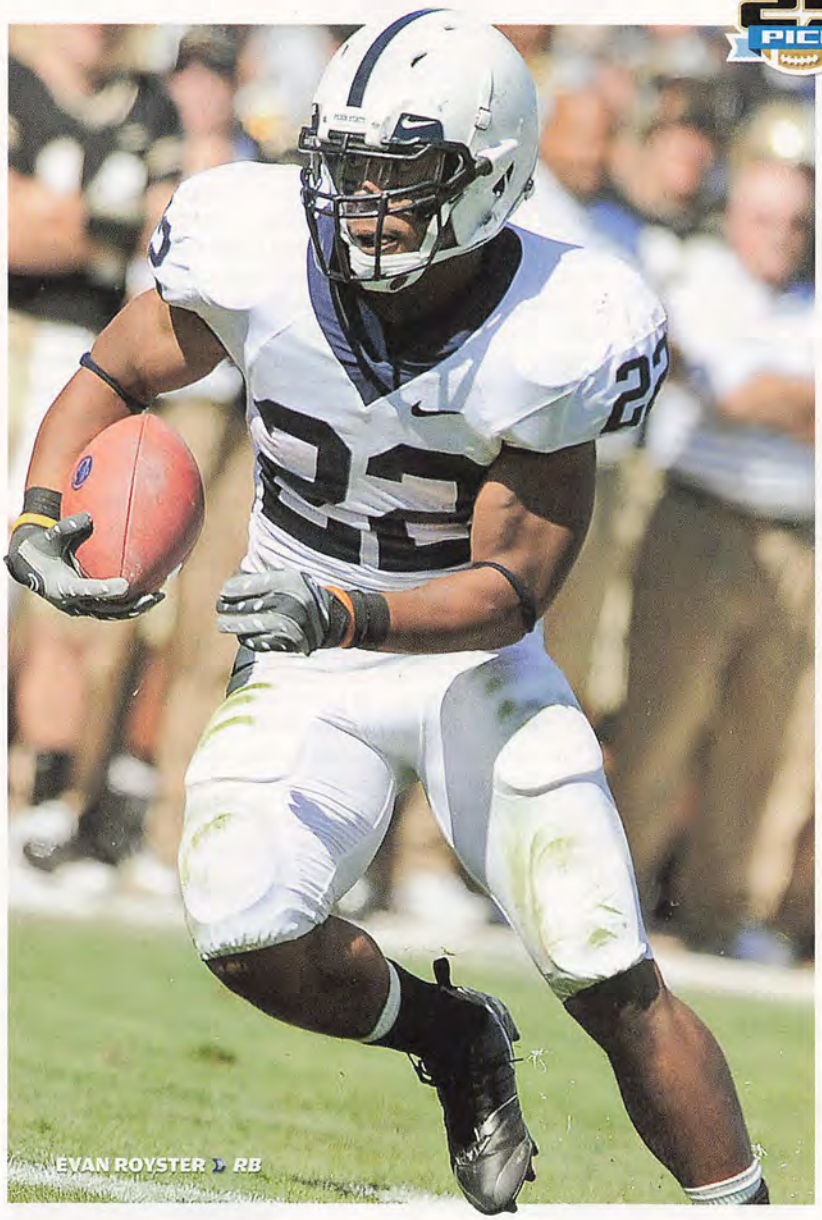
*—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *THAD GIBSON, DE*

The Buckeyes need playmakers on defense, and Gibson, who registered five sacks last season, has the speed to spend a lot of time in enemy backfields this year.

# 2 PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

TOP 25 PICK



EVAN ROYSTER » RB

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Akron | |
| S.12 | Syracuse | 55-13 |
| S.19 | Temple | 45-3 |
| S.26 | Iowa | 23-24 |
| O.3 | @ILLINOIS | 38-24 |
| O.10 | Eastern Illinois | |
| O.17 | Minnesota | |
| O.24 | @MICHIGAN | 46-17 |
| O.31 | @NORTHWESTERN | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| N.7 | Ohio State | 13-6 |

The league's top two teams square off in State College, and PSU tries to win two in a row over the Bucks for the first time in school history.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| N.14 | Indiana | 34-7 |
| N.21 | @MICHIGAN STATE | 49-18 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** MIDDLE TIER BOWL

» CAPITAL ONE BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE » A-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Quarterback Daryll Clark brings stability and big-play potential.
- Great ground game allows for production early.
- Sean Lee's return helps energize the defense.

Just when they think he's out, he pulls himself back in. That "reverse Corleone" move, based on the Godfather III declaration by the Don himself, applies to Joe Paterno.

Rather than trying to extricate himself from the Penn State program, as Corleone tried to do from the family business, JoePa is holding on valiantly at age 82. If he continues to assemble seasons like 2008, he'll be able to stick around State College until he's 102. Last year, the Nittany Lions won 11 games, took the Big Ten crown and made it to the Rose Bowl for the first time since 1994. And now that Paterno has replaced his aching hip, he'll be able to run back on the field with his team and try for an encore.

Trouble is, he won't have the same experienced group around him, and that might lead to calls for his head again. Penn State loses 13 starters, including kicker Kevin Kelly, so the road to a repeat won't be too easy. Since one of those holdovers is senior quarterback Daryll Clark, Paterno has a good weapon at his disposal. But he still needs to find some receivers, fix up the secondary and craft an offensive line.

What a difference a season made with Clark, who entered 2008 as a question mark and exited a first-team All-Big Ten choice. He was an improved passer and also ran for 10 touchdowns. The Lions put him in the spread attack and, with few exceptions, Clark was accurate, comfortable and efficient.

His trick this year is to be more consistent and to avoid the funks that plagued him last year against Iowa and USC. When Clark is confident, he's practically unstoppable. His charge now is to step up bigger in the more important games. Though he scored once on the ground and threw two touchdowns in the Rose Bowl loss to

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

| Daryll Clark | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 13 | 143.44 | 321-192-6 | 59.8 | 2592 | 19 | 199.4 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Evan Royster | 13 | 191 | 1236 | 6.5 | 12 | 95.1 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Evan Royster | 13 | 17 | 155 | 9.1 | 0 | 11.9 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Navorro Bowman | 13 | 61 | 45 | 106 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jared Odrick | 13 | 4.5 | 24 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Drew Astorino | 2 | 29 | 14.5 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 11-2
**Big Ten:** 7-1
*(lost to USC in the Rose Bowl, 38-24)*

**Coach:** Joe Paterno
44th year (381-129-3)
**Career record:** 381-129-3
**Offensive coordinator:**
Galen Hall (6th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Tom Bradley (10th year)

**Stadium:** Beaver Stadium (107,282)
**Tickets:** 800-833-5533
**Site:** University Park
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.gopsusports.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 17 | Daryll Clark (6-2, 233, Sr.) |
| | 12 | Kevin Newsome (6-2, 225, Fr.) |
| RB | 22 | Evan Royster (6-1, 209, Jr.) |
| | 32 | Brent Carter (6-2, 219, Jr.) |
| LOT | 50 | DeOn'tae Pannell (6-5, 313, So.) |
| | 72 | Nerraw McCormack (6-5, 295, Sr.) |
| LOG | 77 | Lou Eliades (6-4, 305, Jr.) |
| | 60 | James Terry (6-3, 319, Fr.) |
| C | 61 | Stefen Wisniewski (6-3, 302, Jr.) |
| | 67 | Quinn Barham (6-3, 288, So.) |
| ROG | 54 | Matt Stankiewitch (6-3, 290, Fr.) |
| | 74 | Johnnie Troutman (6-4, 322, So.) |
| ROT | 73 | Dennis Landolt (6-4, 303, Sr.) |
| | 79 | Ako Poti (6-3, 305, Sr.) |
| TE | 10 | Andrew Quarless (6-5, 253, Sr.) |
| | 82 | Mickey Shuler (6-4, 249, Jr.) |
| WR | 6 | Derek Moye (6-5, 195, So.) |
| | 14 | A.J. Price (6-4, 173, Fr.) |
| WR | 83 | Brett Brackett (6-6, 231, Jr.) |
| | 8 | James McDonald (6-2, 204, Sr.) |
| WR | 5 | Graham Zug (6-2, 178, Jr.) |
| | 2 | Chaz Powell (6-1, 195, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 81 | Jack Crawford (6-5, 262, So.) |
| | 59 | Pete Massaro (6-4, 247, Fr.) |
| LDT | 91 | Jared Odrick (6-5, 306, Sr.) |
| | 71 | Devon Still (6-5, 305, So.) |
| RDT | 85 | Ollie Ogbu (6-1, 292, Jr.) |
| | 95 | Abe Koroma (6-3, 317, Jr.) |
| RDE | 44 | Kevion Latham (6-2, 248, So.) |
| | 56 | Eric Latimore (6-6, 264, So.) |
| SLB | 43 | Josh Hull (6-3, 236, Sr.) |
| | 5 | Jerome Hayes (6-2, 250, Sr.) |
| MLB | 45 | Sean Lee (6-2, 236, Sr.) |
| | 66 | Ethan Hull (6-0, 282, Fr.) |
| WLB | 11 | Navorro Bowman (6-1, 230, Jr.) |
| | 15 | Bani Gbadyu (6-1, 228, Jr.) |
| LCB | 1 | A.J. Wallace (6-1, 201, Sr.) |
| | 8 | D'Anton Lynn (6-1, 198, So.) |
| RCB | 4 | Knowledge Timmons (5-10, 187, Sr.) |
| | 20 | Devin Fentress (5-10, 169, Sr.) |
| FS | 13 | Andrew Dailey (6-2, 221, So.) |
| | 7 | Cedric Jeffries (6-2, 203, Jr.) |
| SS | 28 | Drew Astorino (5-10, 193, So.) |
| | 10 | Nick Sukay (6-1, 208, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 36 | Collin Wagner (5-9, 170, Jr.) |
| P | 41 | Jeremy Boone (5-9, 184, Sr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | PSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 506 | 187 |
| Points Per Game | 38.9 | 14.4 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 300 | 206 |
| Rushing | 136 | 79 |
| Passing | 142 | 116 |
| Penalty | 22 | 11 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2676 | 1212 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2897 | 1569 |
| Yards lost rushing | 221 | 357 |
| Rushing Attempts | 511 | 430 |
| Average Per Rush | 5.2 | 2.8 |
| Average Per Game | 205.8 | 93.2 |
| TDs Rushing | 36 | 12 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 3160 | 2429 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 383-224-6 | 399-225-16 |
| Average Per Pass | 8.3 | 6.1 |
| Average Per Catch | 14.1 | 10.8 |
| Average Per Game | 243.1 | 186.8 |
| TDs Passing | 24 | 10 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5836 | 3641 |
| Total Plays | 894 | 829 |
| Average Per Play | 6.5 | 4.4 |
| Average Per Game | 448.9 | 280.1 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 37-908 | 76-1616 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 25-259 | 12-64 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 16-199 | 6-64 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | PSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 24.5 | 21.3 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 10.4 | 5.3 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 12.4 | 10.7 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 24-10 | 19-7 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 49-408 | 62-564 |
| Average Per Game | 31.4 | 43.4 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 42-1774 | 81-3244 |
| Average Per Punt | 42.2 | 40.0 |
| Net punt average | 37.9 | 35.6 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 31:44 | 28:15 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 90/173 | 60/186 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 52% | 32% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 5/13 | 13/24 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 38% | 54% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 33-203 | 13-100 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 63 | 22 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 21-25 | 11-14 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 63-63 | 20-21 |
| ATTENDANCE | 757775 | 360830 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/108254 | 5/72166 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/93293 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Penn State | 90 | 182 | 128 | 106 | 506 |
| Opponent | 38 | 75 | 23 | 51 | 187 |

USC, he also tossed a pair of interceptions and was ineffective in the first half, when Penn State fell behind 31-7.

The departures of wideouts Deon Butler, Derrick Williams and Jordan Norwood—they combined for 132 receptions and 17 touchdowns last year—won't do much for Clark's self-assurance. He'll have to hope Brett Brackett, Derek Moye and Graham Zug—who combined for 27 catches and four scores last year—can step up. They lack the 2008 trio's speed but are bigger targets.

While the receivers get comfortable, backs Evan Royster (1,236 yards, 12 scores) and Stephfon Green (578, 4) will carry the burden. The only problem with turning things over to them early is that three starters are gone from the offensive line, and each was named first-team All-Big Ten.

Center Stefen Wisniewski was a second-team all-league choice a year ago as a guard, so he's a good anchor to the unit, but sophomore DeOn'tae Pannell must emerge as a capable left tackle to complement stalwart Dennis Landolt on the right side. Also, a pair of guards has to be found from a collection of youngsters.

The defense may be without seven starters, but the healthy return of linebacker Sean Lee from a torn ACL that robbed him of the 2008 season is a plus. Lee is capable of tracking running backs from sideline to sideline but also has the power to mash at the point of attack. Putting him between or next to holdovers Navorro Bowman and Josh Hull will make the Lions dangerous on the second level.

The Lions will need some help up front because the departure of end Aaron Maybin takes away the team's top pass rusher. Jared Odrick showed promise at tackle last year and Ollie Ogbu is a quick interior lineman as well, but a host of youngsters has to get rolling quickly on the outside.

Although the Lions lose all four starting defensive backs, they didn't do much to stop USC receivers on New Year's Day. Drew Astorino showed flashes of big talent at safety last year, so expect him to play well right away. A.J. Wallace was similarly impressive at corner. Gerald Hodges, a freshman who enrolled in January, could grab the other safety position.

Replacing Kelly won't be easy, as he made 20 of 24 field-goal tries last year. Collin Wagner and Anthony Fera will fight it out through the summer. Jeremy Boone averaged 43 yards per punt last year and earned honorable mention all-league honors. With the loss of Williams, the return game needs help, but sophomore wideout Chaz Powell has good speed and could take both jobs.

## RECRUITING REPORT

Penn State didn't draw the type of national headlines that Ohio State or Michigan did in recruiting, but the group heading to Happy Valley will keep the Nittany Lions on the right track.

There are plenty of stars to go with quarterback Kevin Newsome. The class is led by offensive lineman Eric Shrive. The group of defensive backs is also special, with four-star players Derrick Thomas and Darrell Givens at cornerback.

Quarterback was a priority for the Lions, so landing Newsome was vital. He may not be ready to step on the field from Day 1, but Newsome has the tools to be the leader in the future.

*—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *STEFEN WISNIEWSKI, C*

Penn State's line was hit hard by graduation, and the junior moves into the pivot position to provide stability and power for the ground game.

# 3 MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

JOE ROBBINS

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Montana State | |
| S.12 | Central Michigan | |
| S.19 | @NOTRE DAME | 23-7 |
| S.26 | @WISCONSIN | 25-24 |
| O.3 | Michigan | 35-21 |
| O.10 | @ILLINOIS | |
| O.17 | Northwestern | 37-20 |
| O.24 | Iowa | 16-13 |
| O.31 | @MINNESOTA | |
| N.7 | Western Michigan | |
| N.14 | @PURDUE | 21-7 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.21 Penn State** 18-49

When the Spartans met the Nittany Lions last year for a share of the Big Ten title, they couldn't measure up. It's time to see if anything has changed.

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» ALAMO BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ B**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- More discipline and focus mean more wins.
- Greg Jones leads a nasty defense.

In East Lansing, folks are encouraged that Michigan State showed better effort in the Capital One Bowl against Georgia (a 24-12 loss) than it did in two big games against Ohio State and Penn State (combined deficit: 79 points). Perhaps that means Mark Dantonio's rebuilding project could be measured week-to-week rather than year-to-year. Whatever the case, it seems appropriate for Michigan State to start winning some big games.

In some ways, the hardest part of Dantonio's work is done.

Gone is the fatalistic attitude that seemed to torpedo every Spartan effort. The dumb penalties have been cut back, and the crushing errors at key points in important games are down, too.

By reversing the culture in the program and convincing his players they can compete with anybody, Dantonio has put the Spartans in position to move forward. Now, it's time to do so.

They'll have to without running back Javon Ringer (1,637 yards, 22 TDs), who graduated after carrying the ball 30 times a game last season and supporting the offense on his willing shoulders.

One might consider this a signal of impending doom for the Spartans, but there is a six-pack of candidates (including two freshmen) lined up for the position. Though none will likely be able to play workhorse, several—most notably 228-pound sophomore Ashton Leggett—will get work.

The Spartans might even run a little option, because both candidates to replace quarterback Brian Hoyer (Kirk Cousins and Keith Nichol) are mobile enough to pull it off.

Cousins has the edge at the quarterback spot because he knows the offense and he saw time in five games last year

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

Kirk Cousins

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 145.67 | 43-32-1 | 74.4 | 310 | 2 | 77.5 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andre Anderson | 11 | 26 | 97 | 3.7 | 0 | 8.8 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Blair White | 13 | 43 | 659 | 15.3 | 1 | 50.7 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Greg Jones | 13 | 80 | 47 | 127 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Trevor Anderson | 13 | 8 | 64 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Johnny Adams | 2 | 40 | 20.0 | 1 |
| Danny Fortener | 2 | 37 | 18.5 | 0 |
| Chris L. Rucker | 2 | 4 | 2.0 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-4
**Big Ten:** 6-2
*(lost to Georgia in the Capital One Bowl, 24-12)*

**Coach:** Mark Dantonio
3rd year (16-10)
**Career record:** 34-27
**Offensive coordinator:**
Don Tredwell (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Pat Narduzzi (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Spartan Stadium (75,005)
**Tickets:** 800-GO-STATE
**Site:** East Lansing
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.msuspartans.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 8 | Kirk Cousins (6-3, 202, So.) |
| | 9 | Keith Nichol (6-2, 212, So.) |
| FB | 45 | Andrew Hawken (6-2, 238, Sr.) |
| | 44 | Josh Rouse (6-3, 242, Sr.) |
| RB | 32 | Ashton Leggett (5-8, 228, r-So.) |
| | 20 | A.J. Jimmerson (5-10, 205, Sr.) |
| LOT | 64 | Brendon Moss (6-6, 284, Sr.) |
| | 71 | John Deyo (6-6, 295, Fr.) |
| LOG | 67 | Joel Foreman (6-3, 310, So.) |
| | 68 | Ethan Ruhland (6-6, 287, Fr.) |
| C | 65 | Joel Nitchman (6-3, 296, Sr.) |
| | 66 | John Stipek (6-5, 306, Sr.) |
| ROG | 75 | Jared McGaha (6-6, 289, So.) |
| | 62 | Chris McDonald (6-5, 285, Fr.) |
| ROT | 77 | J'Michael Deane (6-5, 297, Jr.) |
| | 76 | Mike Schmeding (6-8, 330, Sr.) |
| TE | 83 | Charlie Gantt (6-4, 245, Jr.) |
| | 85 | Garrett Celek (6-5, 243, So.) |
| WR | 25 | Blair White (6-2, 205, Sr.) |
| | 2 | Mark Dell (6-2, 196, Jr.) |
| WR | 3 | B.J. Cunningham (6-2, 210, So.) |
| | 82 | Keshawn Martin (6-0, 186, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 58 | Trevor Anderson (6-2, 259, Sr.) |
| | 91 | Tyler Hoover (6-7, 268, r-Fr.) |
| LDT | 96 | Kevin Pickelman (6-3, 255, So.) |
| | 99 | Jerel Worthy (6-3, 297, r-Fr.) |
| RDT | 70 | Oren Wilson (6-3, 288, Jr.) |
| | 98 | Michael Jordan (6-5, 295, Sr.) |
| RDE | 89 | Colin Neely (6-1, 245, Jr.) |
| | 54 | David Rolf (6-3, 228, So.) |
| SLB | 43 | Eric Gordon (6-0, 223, Jr.) |
| | 36 | Jon Misch (6-2, 205, Jr.) |
| MLB | 53 | Greg Jones (6-1, 222, Jr.) |
| | 55 | Adam Decker (6-2, 242, Sr.) |
| WLB | 34 | Brandon Denson (5-11, 228, Sr.) |
| | 35 | Marcus Webb (5-11, 218, Sr.) |
| LCB | 37 | Ross Weaver (6-1, 204, Sr.) |
| | 21 | Patrick White (5-11, 180, Fr.) |
| RCB | 29 | Chris Rucker (6-2, 197, Jr.) |
| | 5 | Johnny Adams (5-11, 165, So.) |
| FS | 33 | Danny Fortener (6-1, 203, Sr.) |
| | 31 | Ashton Henderson (5-11, 183, Sr.) |
| SS | 11 | Marcus Hyde (6-0, 205, Jr.) |
| | 30 | Brynden Trawick (6-3, 222, Fr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 14 | Brett Swenson (5-8, 175, Sr.) |
| P | 18 | Aaron Bates (6-0, 190, Jr.) |

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | MSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 326 | 287 |
| Points Per Game | 25.1 | 22.1 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 244 | 228 |
| Rushing | 92 | 88 |
| Passing | 126 | 118 |
| Penalty | 26 | 22 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1692 | 1852 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2120 | 2191 |
| Yards lost rushing | 428 | 339 |
| Rushing Attempts | 511 | 450 |
| Average Per Rush | 3.3 | 4.1 |
| Average Per Game | 130.2 | 142.5 |
| TDs Rushing | 24 | 16 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2773 | 2774 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 399-214-10 | 422-224-14 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.9 | 6.6 |
| Average Per Catch | 13.0 | 12.4 |
| Average Per Game | 213.3 | 213.4 |
| TDs Passing | 11 | 18 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4465 | 4626 |
| Total Plays | 910 | 872 |
| Average Per Play | 4.9 | 5.3 |
| Average Per Game | 343.5 | 355.8 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 52-1026 | 54-1157 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 28-279 | 30-290 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 14-240 | 10-116 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | MSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 19.7 | 21.4 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 10.0 | 9.7 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 17.1 | 11.6 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 22-12 | 18-10 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 66-600 | 82-705 |
| Average Per Game | 46.2 | 54.2 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 73-2979 | 77-3197 |
| Average Per Punt | 40.8 | 41.5 |
| Net punt average | 34.4 | 35.3 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 31:01 | 28:59 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 66/191 | 78/190 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 35% | 41% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 9/15 | 3/17 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 60% | 18% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 26-191 | 24-196 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 20 |
| TDS SCORED | 37 | 37 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 22-28 | 9-13 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 34-34 | 36-36 |
| ATTENDANCE | 524005 | 347306 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/74858 | 5/69461 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/59681 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Michigan State | 64 | 92 | 70 | 100 | 326 |
| Opponent | 59 | 80 | 69 | 79 | 287 |

(completing 32 of 43 passes). But don't be surprised if both sophomores play.

They'll each benefit from the return of several experienced targets. Senior Blair White, sophomore B.J. Cunningham, junior Mark Dell and junior tight end Charlie Gantt all proved themselves last year, but each must do a better job getting into the end zone since they combined for just eight touchdowns in '08.

Three starters are gone from the offensive line, and that's a reason for concern. Center Joel Nitchman is solid, while sophomore guard Joel Foreman has the potential to be a dominating interior presence. But the Spartans need to find a couple tackles or those young backs won't get any traction.

As the green offense finds its way, the Spartans will rely on a defense that returns eight starters and has blossomed under coordinator Pat Narduzzi.

Featured this season is junior Greg Jones, who moves from the strong side to middle linebacker and has star potential. Jones made 14 tackles for loss last year and was named first-team All-Big Ten.

This season, he makes a bid for All-America honors and has the speed to be one of the nation's top big-play linebackers. Junior Eric Gordon isn't too shabby, either, and he moves to Jones' old position.

Defensive end Trevor Anderson registered eight sacks last year, and Oren Wilson was a strong line anchor who improved during the offseason. You won't recognize many of the other names along the front four, but Michigan State will be deeper than in the past. Redshirt freshman end Tyler Hoover, junior end Colin Neely and redshirt freshman tackle Jerel Worthy should play big roles this year, as should sophomore tackle Kevin Pickelman, who gained 20 pounds.

With three secondary regulars back, Michigan State has a chance to be better against the pass. Although they limited opposing quarterbacks to a 53.1-percent completion rate, they gave up a lot of yards.

A better pass rush will help, but so will improved play from corners Ross Weaver and Chris Rucker as well as sophomore Johnny Adams. Senior Danny Fortener is a strong center fielder, while junior Marcus Hyde steps in at strong safety.

The Spartan specialists are top-shelf players. Kicker Brett Swenson converted 22 of 28 attempts last year and was second-team all-league, while punter Aaron Bates earned honorable mention for averaging 42.0 yards per kick.

The Spartans do need some help in the return game and should turn to senior A.J. Jimmerson.

## RECRUITING REPORT

The Spartans were one of the nation's biggest surprises last season, and they also surprised a lot of local observers with their dominating in-state class. Led by recruiting coordinator Mark Staten and ace recruiter Dan Enos, Michigan State scored some major head-to-head wins over Michigan. The Spartans were able to snag Top 100 prospect **David Barrent** away from Iowa and add plenty of depth at the offensive skill positions. The line class was one of the best in the conference, as center **Nate Klatt** is one of the nation's top prospects at his position. Quarterback **Andrew Maxwell** has the tools to be a star; he's smart and has moxie as well as a strong, accurate arm.
*—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *JOEL FOREMAN, G*

The sophomore was a key part of the line that opened holes last year for Javon Ringer. He'll become the stalwart on this year's quintet.

# 4 IOWA HAWKEYES

RICKY STANZI » QB

KIM KLEMENT / US PRESSWIRE

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Northern Iowa | |
| S.12 | @IOWA STATE | 17-5 |
| S.19 | Arizona | |
| S.26 | @PENN STATE | 24-23 |
| 0.3 | Arkansas State | |
| 0.10 | Michigan | |
| 0.17 | @WISCONSIN | 38-16 |
| 0.24 | @MICHIGAN STATE | 13-16 |
| 0.31 | Indiana | 45-9 |
| N.7 | Northwestern | 17-22 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.14 @OHIO STATE**

The Hawkeyes play both Ohio State and Penn State on the road. This meeting should have title implications and give Iowa a chance to take a big step forward.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| N.21 | Minnesota | 55-0 |

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» OUTBACK BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE » B**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Quarterback Ricky Stanzi's consistency quiets an offense in transition.
- Talented linebackers and defensive backs will key a fine defense.
- The Hawkeyes should be strong in tight games.

They're changing the playing surface at Kinnick Stadium from grass to artificial turf, but there's no more discussion of replacing the coach anymore. That's because the Hawkeyes put together a nine-win season in 2008 that culminated in a bowl thumping of South Carolina. All of a sudden, Kirk Ferentz looks like the same sharp guy who helped Iowa come out of the post-Hayden Fry doldrums earlier this decade. The school sure thinks so, and that's why it signed him through the 2015 season.

And despite the losses of a few key performers—most notably standout rusher Shonn Greene and defensive-line anchor Mitch King—Iowa has a great chance to keep the good times going this year, and perhaps contend for the league title. Last year, the Hawkeyes' four losses came by a combined 12 points. Given the experience of this year's club, Iowa should prevail in most close games it plays.

One of the reasons is junior quarterback Ricky Stanzi, who emerged early last year and became one of the conference's most accurate quarterbacks. Stanzi was most impressive in the win over Penn State, when he led the Hawkeyes on the winning drive. Stanzi has a strong arm, can move well in the pocket and makes good decisions. In a conference where many teams are searching for reliable quarterback play, Stanzi gives Iowa security under center.

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

| Ricky Stanzi | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 13 | 134.84 | 254-150-9 | 59.1 | 1956 | 14 | 150.5 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jewel Hampton | 12 | 91 | 463 | 5.1 | 7 | 38.6 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Derrell Johnson-Koulianos | 13 | 44 | 639 | 14.5 | 3 | 49.2 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pat Angerer | 13 | 46 | 61 | 107 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Broderick Binns | 13 | 2 | 15 |
| Adrian Clayborn | 13 | 2 | 22 |
| AJ Edds | 13 | 2 | 15 |
| Karl Klug | 12 | 2 | 8 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pat Angerer | 5 | 34 | 6.8 | 0 |
| Tyler Sash | 5 | 147 | 29.4 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-4
**Big Ten:** 5-3
*(beat South Carolina in the Outback Bowl, 31-10)*

**Coach:** Kirk Ferentz
11th year (70-53)
**Career record:** 72-74
**Offensive coordinator:**
Ken O'Keefe (11th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Norm Parker (11th year)

**Stadium:** Kinnick Stadium (70,585)
**Tickets:** 800-IA-HAWKS
**Site:** Iowa City
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.hawkeyesports.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 12 | Ricky Stanzi (6-4, 218, Jr.) |
| | 16 | James Vandenberg (6-3, 205, Fr.) |
| FB | 36 | Brett Morse (6-3, 238, Jr.) |
| | 47 | Wade Leppert (6-0, 245, So.) |
| RB | 27 | Jewel Hampton (5-9, 210, So.) |
| | 25 | Paki O'Meara (5-11, 211, Jr.) |
| LOT | 79 | Bryan Bulaga (6-6, 312, Jr.) |
| | 56 | Markus Zusevics (6-5, 278, So.) |
| LOG | 63 | Julian Vandervelde (6-3, 300, Jr.) |
| | 52 | Rafael Eubanks (6-3, 280, Jr.) |
| C | 67 | Josh Koeppel (6-2, 267, Jr.) |
| | 53 | James Ferentz (6-2, 265, Fr.) |
| ROG | 68 | Andy Kuempel (6-7, 300, Sr.) |
| | 74 | Dan Doering (6-6, 300, Sr.) |
| ROT | 60 | Kyle Calloway (6-7, 315, Sr.) |
| | 77 | Riley Reiff (6-6, 280, Fr.) |
| TE | 81 | Tony Moeaki (6-4, 250, Sr.) |
| | 82 | Allen Reisner (6-3, 235, Jr.) |
| WR | 15 | Derrell Johnson-Koulianos (6-1, 200, Jr.) |
| | 22 | Colin Sandman (6-1, 200, Jr.) |
| WR | 86 | Trey Stross (6-4, 200, Sr.) |
| | 7 | Marvin McNutt (6-4, 215, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 94 | Adrian Clayborn (6-3, 282, Jr.) |
| | 98 | Chad Geary (6-3, 262, Sr.) |
| LDT | 95 | Karl Klug (6-4, 258, Jr.) |
| | 54 | Steve Bigach (6-3, 270, Fr.) |
| RDT | 93 | Mike Daniels (6-1, 267, So.) |
| | 64 | Cody Hundertmark (6-4, 280, Jr.) |
| RDE | 46 | Christian Ballard (6-5, 285, Jr.) |
| | 91 | Broderick Binns (6-2, 255, So.) |
| SLB | 49 | A.J. Edds (6-4, 244, Sr.) |
| | 45 | Tyler Nielsen (6-4, 232, So.) |
| MLB | 43 | Pat Angerer (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| | 55 | Jacody Coleman (6-3, 240, Jr.) |
| WLB | 42 | Jeremiha Hunter (6-2, 235, Jr.) |
| | 33 | Jeff Tarpinian (6-3, 233, Jr.) |
| LCB | 4 | Jordan Bernstine (5-11, 205, Jr.) |
| | 89 | Shane Prater (6-1, 170, Fr.) |
| RCB | 19 | Amari Spievey (6-0, 190, Jr.) |
| | 10 | William Lowe (5-10, 170, So.) |
| FS | 30 | Brett Greenwood (6-0, 200, Jr.) |
| | 40 | Jack Swanson (5-11, 195, Fr.) |
| SS | 9 | Tyler Sash (6-1, 210, So.) |
| | 31 | David Cato (5-11, 205, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 1 | Daniel Murray (5-10, 185, Jr.) |
| P | 5 | Ryan Donahue (6-3, 180, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | IOWA | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 394 | 169 |
| Points Per Game | 30.3 | 13 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 269 | 215 |
| Rushing | 146 | 68 |
| Passing | 108 | 129 |
| Penalty | 15 | 18 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2453 | 1222 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2713 | 1479 |
| Yards lost rushing | 260 | 257 |
| Rushing Attempts | 515 | 397 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.8 | 3.1 |
| Average Per Game | 188.7 | 94 |
| TDs Rushing | 30 | 7 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2362 | 2565 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 320-187-11 | 463-256-23 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.4 | 5.5 |
| Average Per Catch | 12.6 | 10 |
| Average Per Game | 181.7 | 197.3 |
| TDs Passing | 16 | 9 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4815 | 3787 |
| Total Plays | 835 | 860 |
| Average Per Play | 5.8 | 4.4 |
| Average Per Game | 370.4 | 291.3 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 39-798 | 58-1275 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 41-413 | 20789 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 23-439 | 38678 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | IOWA | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 20.5 | 22 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 10.1 | 5 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 19.1 | 2.1 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 20-13 | 17-9 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 53-446 | 65-604 |
| Average Per Game | 34.3 | 46.5 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 51-2088 | 76-3034 |
| Average Per Punt | 40.9 | 39.9 |
| Net punt average | 37 | 32.6 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 31:31 | 38:29 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 65/159 | 67/194 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 41% | 35% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 38546 | 38610 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 50% | 56% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 19-127 | 27-158 |
| MISC YARDS | 14 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 48 | 17 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 19-24 | 17-23 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 45-47 | 14-16 |
| ATTENDANCE | 491186 | 288216 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/70169 | 5/57643 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/55117 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Iowa | 91 | 103 | 78 | 122 | 394 |
| Opponent | 27 | 58 | 35 | 49 | 169 |

Although Greene was excellent last year, gaining at least 100 yards in every game, sophomore Jewel Hampton (463 yards) displayed the quickness and burst necessary to be a featured back. Hampton set a Hawkeye freshman record with seven TDs and averaged 5.1 yards a carry. Depth will come from Paki O'Meara and redshirt freshman Jeff Brinson, but the best bet for backup work might be Brandon Wegher, a true freshman with breakaway speed and good power.

Iowa needs to find a couple of receivers behind junior Derrell Johnson-Koulianos, who led the team with 44 catches last year and scored three times. He has excellent speed and the potential to become a huge weapon, but must be more consistent. The Hawkeyes hope junior Colin Sandeman can translate the success he has had as a return man into full-time receiving production and are expecting senior Trey Stross to be a possession target. Incoming freshman Keenan Davis could also see time.

A pair of second-team All-Big Ten selections anchors the line. Junior left tackle Bryan Bulaga is a good blend of size, strength and quickness, while right tackle Kyle Calloway can maul people. Inside, Julian Vandervelde is a solid holdover at guard, but the Hawkeyes must replace a couple of all-conference selections at center and the other guard spot.

The Iowa back seven is loaded with experience and production, so if it takes a while for the ground game and receivers to hit their stride, the Hawkeyes can count on their defense to keep things close. Senior middle linebacker Pat Angerer led the team in tackles last year (107) and also proved valuable in pass coverage, making five interceptions. He's between stalwarts Jeremiha Hunter, a speedy junior, and stout senior A.J. Edds.

Junior corner Amari Spievey leads a secondary that was productive last season. Opposing quarterbacks threw only nine touchdown passes against the Hawkeyes last year and were picked off 23 times. Strong safety Tyler Sash (5 INTs) and free safety Brett Greenwood (2) join Spievey as returning starters, while Jordan Bernstine hopes to hold off several challengers for the other corner spot.

The questions about the Hawkeye defense come up front, where King, the '08 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year, and Matt Kroul have departed from the middle of the line. Replacing them won't be easy, although junior Karl Klug had nine tackles against Florida International last season.

Trent Mossbrucker and Daniel Murray combined to make 19 of 24 field-goal tries last year. Murray has a stronger leg, but Mossbrucker is more accurate. Second-team All-Big Ten punter Ryan Donahue does a great job with hangtime and putting balls inside opposing 20-yard lines. Hampton is a fine punt-return man, and Sandeman has potential bringing back kicks.

### RECRUITING REPORT

It's tough to have a highly ranked class when you only sign 19 players, but this is still a nice haul for the Hawkeyes. Iowa reeled in star running back **Brandon Wegher**, and **Brad Rogers** has a shot to be a real steal as a big, bruising rusher. Help was added along the offensive line, and Iowa went heavy at linebacker. Wide receiver **Keenan Davis** was a national prospect who just happened to be in the Hawkeyes' back yard. He was a "must get" because Iowa needs playmakers.
*—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *JEWEL HAMPTON, RB*

Hampton worked behind Shonn Greene in 2008 but showed flashes of brilliance that should carry over this year as the Hawkeyes' featured back.

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# ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI 5

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.5** | **Missouri*** | **42-52** |
| We'll find out quickly whether the Illini are ready to rebound, or if their inconsistency will plague them again. | | |
| **S.12** | Illinois State | |
| **S.26** | @OHIO STATE | 20-30 |
| **O.3** | Penn State | 24-38 |
| **O.10** | Michigan State | |
| **O.17** | @INDIANA | 55-13 |
| **O.24** | @PURDUE | |
| **O.31** | Michigan | 45-20 |
| **N.7** | @MINNESOTA | 20-27 |
| **N.14** | Northwestern | 10-27 |
| **N.27** | @CINCINNATI | |
| **D.5** | Fresno State | |

** at St. Louis, MO*

**BOWL PROJECTION** MIDDLE TIER BOWL

» CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Juice Williams has potential to make big plays.
- Arrelious Benn is one of the nation's most dangerous receivers.
- The roster boasts plenty of young talent.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 7 | Juice Williams (6-2, 235, Sr.) |
| FB | 41 | Zach Becker (6-3, 252, So.) |
| RB | 22 | Daniel Dufrene (5-11, 205, Sr.) |
| LOT | 70 | Corey Lewis (6-6, 315, So.) |
| LOG | 66 | Randall Hunt (6-6, 320, Jr.) |
| C | 62 | Eric Block (6-3, 290, Sr.) |
| ROG | 52 | Jon Asamoah (6-5, 315, Sr.) |
| ROT | 71 | Jeff Allen (6-5, 310, So.) |
| TE | 16 | Michael Hoomanawanui (6-5, 270, Sr.) |
| WR | 9 | Arrelious Benn (6-2, 220, Jr.) |
| WR | 17 | Jeff Cumberland (6-5, 255, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 95 | Doug Pilcher (6-5, 265, Sr.) |
| LDT | 92 | Josh Brent (6-2, 315, Jr.) |
| RDT | 93 | Corey Liuget (6-3, 290, So.) |
| RDE | 90 | Antonio James (6-5, 255, Sr.) |
| SLB | 38 | Ian Thomas (6-0, 225, So.) |
| MLB | 33 | Russell Ellington (6-2, 225, So.) |
| WLB | 2 | Martez Wilson (6-4, 246, Jr.) |
| LCB | 3 | Tavon Wilson (6-0, 195, So.) |
| RCB | 28 | Dere Hicks (5-10, 175, Sr.) |
| FS | 4 | Donsay Hardeman (6-2, 210, Sr.) |
| SS | 31 | Travon Bellamy (6-0, 205, Jr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 84 | Matt Eller (6-2, 210, So.) |
| P | 87 | Anthony Santella (6-2, 190, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7
**Big Ten:** 3-5

**Coach:** Ron Zook
5th year (17-30)
**Career record:** 41-44
**Offensive coordinator:**
Mike Schultz (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Dan Disch (5th year)
Curt Mallory (4th year)

**Stadium:** Memorial Stadium (69,249)
**Tickets:** 866-ILLINI-1
**Site:** Champaign
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.fightingillini.com

JUICE WILLIAMS, 7-QB

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

That thud you heard in 2008 was the Illinois program returning to earth after its heady 2007 Rose Bowl season. Instead of following up the surprise trip to Pasadena, Calif., with more prosperity, the Illini fell to 5-7. The offense staggered, the defense couldn't make enough big plays and everybody started wondering whether Ron Zook was a great recruiter, as many had said during his time as coach at Florida.

The challenge now is to get rolling again, because another season without a bowl could relegate the Illini to the second tier for many years to come, since other Big Ten programs are making strides forward. Zook has to find a way to regain momentum and convince the program that '07 wasn't just a fluke and the Illini belong in the Big Ten contention discussion.

He's lucky to have some weapons at his disposal in that quest, most notably senior quarterback Juice Williams. The question is whether Williams will be content to make big plays occasionally, or if he wants to be a consistent leader and reliable passer. Williams has the tools to be a dynamic run-pass threat, but he can't keep throwing so many interceptions and has to improve his accuracy.

He'll throw to standout Arrelious Benn, who has big-play speed but scored only three times last season. Super-sized receiver Jeff Cumberland (6-5, 255 pounds) is a fine target, and tight end Michael Hoomanawanui has the potential to be an all-conference performer.

The ground game has plenty of options, beginning with running back Daniel Dufrene (663 yards). But it hardly ends there. Sophomores Jason Ford and Mikel LeShoure will get close looks, as will incoming freshmen Justin Green and Bud Golden. They'll work behind a revamped line that is anchored by center Eric Block and right guard Jon Asamoah but needs help on the left side.

Defensive tackle Josh Brent was suspended indefinitely in February following a DUI arrest. If he's reinstated, he'll team with Corey Liuget to give Illinois a strong interior line. End Doug Pilcher also returns. The linebacking corps will miss Brit Miller, but Martez Wilson, who appears to be recovered from a stab wound suffered in December, is an outside force.

Corner Vontae Davis left early for the NFL, but the Illini should still have a strong secondary. Dere Hicks is a stalwart on the outside, and Tavon Wilson and Miami Thomas have potential. Look out for Patrick Nixon-Youman, who missed last year (academics) but has plenty of talent. The safety position is deep and experienced, as Travon Bellamy and Donsay Hardeman are the best of the lot.

There is experience on the special teams, but all areas need an upgrade. Kicker Matt Eller made 15 of 20 field-goal attempts as a freshman, but was inconsistent. Punter Anthony Santella needs to boost his 39.4-yard average. Benn (7.6-yard average) could improve on punt returns, but A.J. Jenkins is a strong kick return man.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***MARTEZ WILSON, LB***

The Illini need playmakers on defense, and the junior has the size and speed to track down ballcarriers all over the field.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Justin Green**
*RB, 5-10, 178*
Green was a late steal from Ohio State and will get his shot at playing running back for Illinois.

**2 — Terry Hawthorne**
*WR, 6-0, 168*
He led his team to an Illinois state championship as a senior and is an explosive receiver who is dangerous once he gets the ball in space.

**3 — Michael Buchanan**
*DE, 6-6, 220*
Buchanan emerged as one of the top defenders in the nation last season. He also has the size to stop the run.

**4 — Lendell Buckner**
*DT, 6-3, 341*
He's massive in the middle. If Buckner can get into football shape, he could be the dominating run-stopper Illinois needs.

**5 — Leon Hill**
*OL, 6-4, 320*
Hill moves well for his size and was one of the most athletic prep interior offensive linemen in the Midwest.

KIRBY LEE / IMAGE OF SPORT / US PRESSWIRE

# 6 MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

The Rich Rodriguez era began with a thud. It didn't take much of a prognosticator to think Michigan might go through some tough times after Rodriguez took over the program from Lloyd Carr and installed his spread offense. But nobody thought the Wolverines would finish with a 3-9 record. At the start of 2008, Michigan observers expected the team to struggle on offense but figured the defense would carry the Wolverines to respectability. The defense turned out to be just as bad or worse than the offense.

A year later, Michigan supporters are trying to be patient with Rodriguez. During the spring, there was optimism that the arrow was at least pointing in the right direction. However, it's easy to be patient in April when freshman quarterback Tate Forcier was impressive and more than 45,000 fans showed up for the spring game. But it will be difficult to maintain that positive attitude if the Wolverines have early-season losses to Notre Dame and Michigan State.

After all, this is Michigan, the program that Bo Schembechler resurrected and has been at a top level from 1969 through 2007. The Wolverines suffered the indignity of a losing season for the first time since 1967, and two in a row will be too much for the fan base to take.

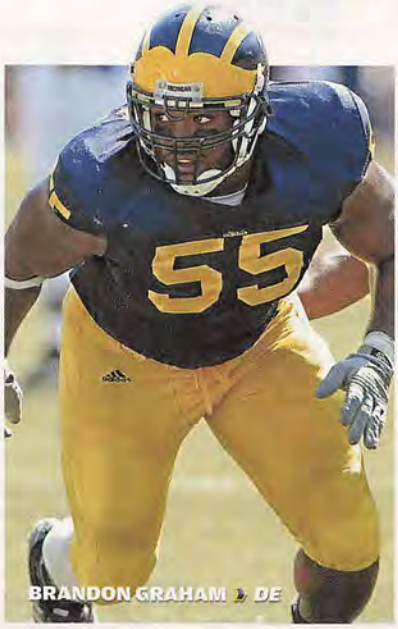
So there is plenty of heat on Rodriguez as he brings back 10 starters from last year's team—but they all may not win starting positions. That's a good thing when the team is coming off last year's losing season. But as far as on-field strengths are concerned, it's difficult to look at any one area and say it will be Michigan's bread and butter.

Forcier appears to have the starting job since Steven Threet transferred and Nick Sheridan missed all of spring football with a fractured leg.

Forcier may have a go-to receiver in redshirt freshman Roy Roundtree, who has good hands, moves well and a gift for catching the ball at its highest point. Sophomore wideout Martavious Odoms returns after catching 49 passes for 433 yards a year ago. Odoms proved he can catch the ball on the run and has little fear of getting hit.

The running game is in the hands of Brandon Minor, who rushed for 533 yards last year and scored nine touchdowns while averaging 5.2 yards per carry. Minor should build off of those figures because the offensive line returns intact.

On the defensive side, the Wolverines return five starters and Rodriguez may get good contributions from all of them. End Brandon Graham had 10 sacks and 20 tackles for loss last year and he is trouble coming around the edge. Linebacker Obi Ezeh is coming off a season in which he registered 98 tackles. Safety Stevie Brown had two interceptions last year and cornerback Donovan Warren is athletic, as he broke up five passes last season.


BRANDON GRAHAM ▸ DE

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***TATE FORCIER, QB***

While the incoming freshman has yet to play a down of college football, he appears to have the athleticism to make plays in the spread offense and the mindset to handle the pressure. If it's not Forcier and the Wolverines have to turn to Nick Sheridan at quarterback, it will be another long season.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 3-9
**Big Ten:** 3-6

**Coach:** Rich Rodriguez 2nd year (3-9)
**Career record:** 108-70-2
**Offensive coordinator:** Calvin Magee (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:** Greg Robinson (1st year)

**Stadium:** Michigan Stadium (107,501)
**Tickets:** 734-764-0247
**Site:** Ann Arbor
**Official athletic Web site:** www.mgoblue.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Western Michigan | |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.12** | **Notre Dame** | **17-35** |
| Notre Dame may be just good enough this year that a win over the Fighting Irish could springboard Michigan to respectability. | | |
| S.19 | Eastern Michigan | |
| S.26 | Indiana | |
| 0.3 | @MICHIGAN STATE | 21-35 |
| 0.10 | @IOWA | |
| 0.17 | Delaware State | |
| 0.24 | Penn State | 17-46 |
| 0.31 | @ILLINOIS | 20-45 |
| N.7 | Purdue | 42-48 |
| N.14 | @WISCONSIN | 27-25 |
| N.21 | Ohio State | 7-42 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** ▸▸ INSIGHT BOWL — LOWER TIER BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Record should improve.
- There are major question marks everywhere on the field.
- There is not one area Rich Rodriguez can count on.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 5 | Tate Forcier (6-1, 187, Fr.) |
| RB | 4 | Brandon Minor (6-1, 216, Sr.) |
| LOT | 71 | Mark Ortmann (6-7, 284, Sr.) |
| LOG | 52 | Stephen Schilling (6-5, 304, Jr.) |
| C | 50 | David Molk (6-2, 283, So.) |
| ROG | 60 | David Moosman (6-5, 292, Sr.) |
| ROT | 72 | Mark Huyge (6-4, 291, So.) |
| TE | 86 | Kevin Koger (6-4, 245, So.) |
| WR | 13 | Greg Mathews (6-3, 209, Sr.) |
| WR | 16 | Roy Roundtree (6-0, 154, So.) |
| WR | 9 | Martavious Odoms (5-9, 171, So.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 55 | Brandon Graham (6-2, 268, Sr.) |
| LDT | 73 | William Campbell (6-5, 330, Fr.) |
| RDT | 68 | Mike Martin (6-2, 291, So.) |
| RDE | 53 | Ryan Van Bergen (6-6, 261, So.) |
| SLB | 45 | J.B. Fitzgerald (6-3, 232, So.) |
| MLB | 45 | Obi Ezeh (6-2, 247, Jr.) |
| WLB | 8 | Jonas Mouton (6-2, 218, Jr.) |
| LCB | 33 | Boubacar Cissoko (5-9, 182, Fr.) |
| RCB | 6 | Donovan Warren (6-0, 187, Jr.) |
| FS | 29 | Troy Woolfolk (6-0, 183, Jr.) |
| SS | 3 | Stevie Brown (6-0, 209, Jr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 92 | Jason Olesnavage (6-5, 212, Sr.) |
| P | 41 | Zoltan Mesko (6-5, 238, Sr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 William Campbell** *DT, 6-5, 330*
While Campbell's a special defensive tackle, he could also end up being a tremendous offensive tackle down the road.

**2 Tate Forcier** *QB, 6-1, 187*
Forcier enrolled early and is competing for the starting job. He has all the tools to be the perfect fit for Rich Rodriguez's offense.

**3 Justin Turner** *S, 6-2, 186*
He emerged as the top prospect in Ohio with a strong senior year and an amazing performance at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

**4 Jeremy Gallon** *ATH, 5-8, 165*
Gallon isn't big, but he's a big-time player. He is explosive with the ball in his hands and could play a number of positions.

**5 Craig Roh** *DE, 6-5, 230*
Roh is a blue-collar defensive end. While he might not impress with his flashy play, Roh gets the job done consistently on every down.

SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES

# WISCONSIN BADGERS 7

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Northern Illinois | |
| S.12 | Fresno State | 13-10 |
| S.19 | Wofford | |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.26** | **Michigan State** | **24-25** |

The Badgers lost a tight one to Michigan State last year and open their Big Ten slate with a chance to make a statement about their '08 conference strength.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0.3 | @MINNESOTA | 35-32 |
| 0.10 | @OHIO STATE | 17-20 |
| 0.17 | Iowa | 16-38 |
| 0.31 | Purdue | |
| N.7 | @INDIANA | 55-20 |
| N.14 | Michigan | 25-27 |
| N.21 | @NORTHWESTERN | |
| D.5 | @HAWAII | |

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL
» INSIGHT BOWL

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- John Clay is a first-rate back in the Wisconsin tradition.
- Three returning starters key a solid secondary.
- Few teams will out-tough the Badgers.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 18 | Dustin Sherer (6-4, 217, Sr.) |
| RB | 32 | John Clay (6-2, 247, So.) |
| LOT | 68 | Gabe Carimi (6-8, 313, Jr.) |
| LOG | 78 | Jake Bscherer (6-7, 310, Jr.) |
| C | 74 | John Moffitt (6-4, 313, Jr.) |
| ROG | 76 | Bill Nagy (6-4, 307, Jr.) |
| ROT | 67 | Josh Oglesby (6-7, 329, So.) |
| TE | 89 | Garrett Graham (6-4, 248, Sr.) |
| WR | 36 | Mickey Turner (6-4, 250, Sr.) |
| WR | 6 | Isaac Anderson (5-11, 180, Jr.) |
| WR | 85 | David Gilreath (5-11, 162, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 97 | Brendan Kelly (6-6, 240, Fr.) |
| LDT | 87 | J.J. Watt (6-6, 285, So.) |
| RDT | 79 | Jeff Stehle (6-6, 291, Sr.) |
| RDE | 50 | O'Brien Schofield (6-3, 242, Sr.) |
| SLB | 15 | Culmer St. Jean (6-1, 235, Jr.) |
| MLB | 47 | Jaevery McFadden (6-3, 226, Sr.) |
| WLB | 27 | Blake Sorensen (6-1, 230, Jr.) |
| LCB | 7 | Aaron Henry (6-0, 197, So.) |
| RCB | 29 | Niles Brinkley (5-10, 180, Jr.) |
| FS | 21 | Chris Maragos (6-0, 198, Sr.) |
| SS | 12 | Jay Valai (5-9, 200, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 18 | Philip Welch (6-3, 200, So.) |
| P | 98 | Brad Nortman (6-3, 214, So.) |

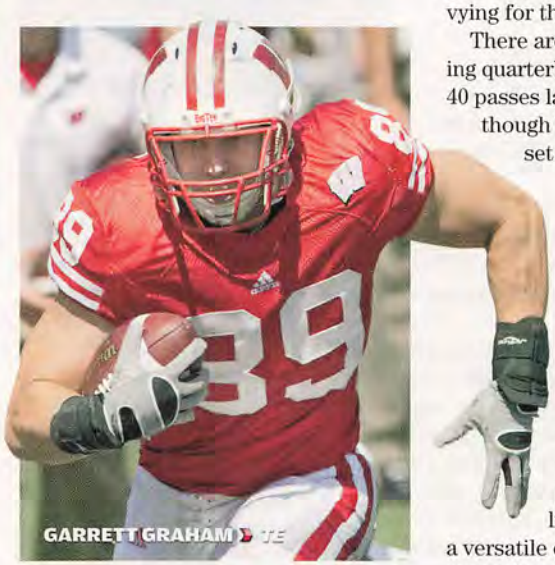
*Sporting News All-American*

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 7-6
**Big Ten:** 3-5
*(lost to Florida State in the Champs Sports Bowl, 42-13)*

**Coach:** Bret Bielema
4th year (28-11)
**Career record:** 28-11
**Offensive coordinator:**
Paul Chryst (5th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Dave Doeren (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Camp Randall Stadium (80,321)
**Tickets:** 608-262-1440
**Site:** Madison
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.uwbadgers.com


GARRETT GRAHAM » TE

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Kraig Appleton**
*WR, 6-3, 190*
Appleton was a nice recruiting victory over Illinois. He'll be a solid possession receiver.

**2 — Montee Ball**
*RB, 5-11, 205*
Ball is a perfect fit for the Badgers' offense. He's a bruising back who is tough between the tackles and has a nice burst of speed.

**3 — David Gilbert**
*DE, 6-4, 214*
Gilbert got away from the teams in Florida and should be a good pass-rushing threat off the edge for the Badgers.

**4 — Shelby Harris**
*DE, 6-3, 235*
A solid in-state recruit, Harris is an all-around defensive end. He's just as good at stopping the run as he is rushing the passer.

**5 — Jordan Kohout**
*DT, 6-4, 265*
A sturdy interior defensive lineman, Kohout fits what the Badgers want from their tackles—an athletic player who can stop the run.

Whenever an established coach turns the reins over to his successor, there are always questions about whether the success the veteran enjoyed will continue under the new regime. That wasn't a concern at Wisconsin during Brett Bielema's first two seasons, when he went 21-5. But after last year's 7-6 slide, there are questions about whether the opening campaigns were built upon former boss Barry Alvarez's recruits and if Bielema has what it takes to get Wisconsin back to the top of the Big Ten.

Penalties, turnovers and inconsistency plagued the Badgers last season, and those troubles must be elminated if they are to win big again.

It would be nice if Bielema could feel better about his quarterback situation. Dustin Sherer returns after a lackluster debut in '08. And while he looked solid during the spring, Badger fans should not expect a remarkable transformation. Still, Sherer can be good. Trouble is, Wisconsin wants to be great. Curt Phillips and Scott Tolzien are the others vying for the job, but neither has much experience.

There are some security blankets for the surviving quarterback. Tight end Garrett Graham caught 40 passes last year and scored five times, so even though Travis Beckum is gone, the Badgers are set at that position.

Receiver David Gilreath snared 31 throws and averaged 16.8 yards per reception while earning second-team All-Big Ten notice, and Isaac Anderson caught 12 balls in three games last season.

If Scherer has trouble throwing to that bunch, it won't help the ground game, which lacks depth and has no big breakaway threat. Sophomore John Clay gained 884 yards and scored nine times in an impressive debut last year. He has the talent to be a front-line back, while junior Zach Brown is a versatile change of pace. After that, there isn't much. Speedy Erik Smith is a redshirt freshman, and true freshman Montee Ball arrives this summer with a chance for immediate action.

Whoever carries the ball will work behind a solid line anchored by junior left tackle Gabe Carimi and junior center John Moffitt.

While that unit should be fine, the Badgers need help along the defensive front, where senior end O'Brien Schofield (5 sacks) is the lone returning starter. Brendan Kelly missed much of last year (thumb) but impressed early at end, while Central Michigan transfer J.J. Watt looked great last season and can play inside or out.

The antithesis of the line is the secondary, which brings back three regulars, including safety Jay Valai, a second-team All-Big Ten selection last year.

Niles Brinkley looks to be set at one corner spot, while Aaron Henry gets a shot at the other after missing all of the '08 season with a knee injury. Chris Maragos should be the free safety, provided he tackles better than a year ago.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***JOHN CLAY, RB***

The sophomore complemented P.J. Hill last season and is poised to become one of the Big Ten's top backs in 2009.

DAVID STLUKA / GETTY IMAGES

# 8 MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

The Golden Gophers move outdoors to a sharp, new on-campus stadium this fall and hope they can solve some of the problems that led to a late-season collapse after a 7-1 start in 2008. A trio of new coordinators takes over in Minneapolis, hoping to fix a porous defense and an offense that rivals figured out during the second half of the year. Jedd Fisch, who's just 32, takes over as offensive coordinator after the resignation of Mike Dunbar, with Tim Davis handling the running game. Kevin Cosgrove, who has developed a reputation for developing good linebackers, will work with Ronnie Lee to run the defense.

Of course, after going 1-10 in 2007, a 7-6 record and bowl berth should be reason for celebration at Minnesota, no matter how much things deteriorated at the end. And with 18 starters back, there's no reason to think the Gophers can't continue to make progress.

They'll need to start by boosting a ground game that averaged a meager 3.1 yards per carry last year. Two additions should help that cause. Notre Dame transfer Matt Carufel, who started three games for the Irish in '07, will play right guard, while junior-college import Jeff Wills should handle right tackle.

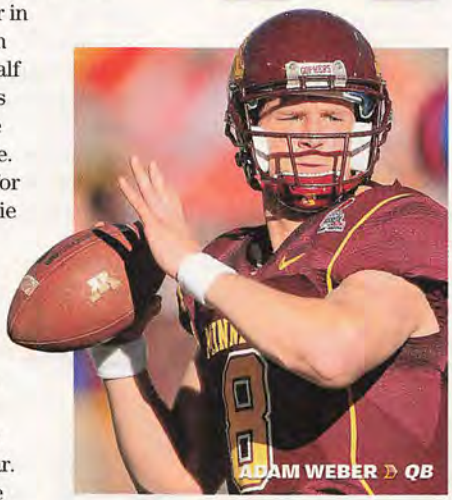
The chief beneficiaries of their efforts will be running backs DeLeon Eskridge (678 rushing yards, 7 TDs) and Shady Salamon, both of whom impressed as freshmen. They'll be joined by speedy freshman Hasan Lipscomb and Duane Bennett, who missed all of '08 with a knee injury.

Junior Adam Weber had a strong season under center, throwing for 2,761 yards and 15 touchdowns in '08. He's mobile, accurate (62.2 completion percentage) and should become one of the league's best this year. It helps that he will have some great targets at his disposal, beginning with senior Eric Decker (84 catches, 7 TDs), a first-team All-Big Ten choice last year. Senior Ben Kuznia (31 catches) and sophomore Brandon Green (21) also return. They'll be joined by Hayo Carpenter, the nation's top-rated juco receiver last year.

The defense must get better against the pass, and it would help if safety Tramaine Brock (an academic casualty) was on the team. His fate won't likely be determined until late summer. Senior Traye Simmons was a second-team all-league corner last year, but he needs help. Marcus Sherels was solid last season, as well, but depth is needed. Don't be surprised if true freshman Michael Carter gets some work early. The front seven will miss standout end Willie VanDeSteeg, but linebackers Simoni Lawrence and Lee Campbell are stout, and tackle Garrett Brown can get into the backfield.

Former prep All-American Eric Ellestad should get the kicking job, while incoming freshman Dan Orseske could end up at punter. Sherels is a strong punt-return man, while sophomore corner Troy Stoudermire was great returning kicks last year.

The Gophers have the talent to keep improving, but they must get more physical on both sides of the ball and become a rugged Big Ten team that can thrive in a frigid outdoor setting.


ADAM WEBER ▷ QB

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***MATT CARUFEL, G***

The Notre Dame transfer steps in immediately and will help a line that couldn't get the Gopher ground game going last year.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @SYRACUSE | |
| S.12 | Air Force | |
| S.19 | California | |
| S.26 | @NORTHWESTERN | 17-24 |
| 0.3 | Wisconsin | 32-35 |
| 0.10 | Purdue | 17-6 |
| 0.17 | @PENN STATE | |
| 0.24 | @OHIO STATE | 21-34 |
| 0.31 | Michigan State | |
| N.7 | Illinois | 27-20 |
| N.14 | South Dakota State | |
| N.21 | @IOWA | 0-55 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.12 Air Force**

The Gophers open their new stadium with a visit from the always-dangerous Falcon offense. This should be a good test for the Minnesota defense.

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Adam Weber is maturing into a fine spread weapon.
- Eric Decker is a first-rate receiver.
- New coordinators promise better schemes on both sides.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 7-6
**Big Ten:** 3-5
*(lost to Kansas in the Insight Bowl, 42-21)*

**Coach:** Tim Brewster
3rd year (8-17)
**Career record:** 8-17
**Offensive coordinator:**
Jedd Fisch (1st year)
**Defensive coordinators:**
Kevin Cosgrove (1st year)
Ronnie Lee (1st year)

**Stadium:** TCF Bank Stadium (50,300)
**Tickets:** 800-UGOPHER
**Site:** Minneapolis
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.gophersports.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 8 | Adam Weber (6-3, 220, Jr.) |
| RB | 23 | DeLeon Eskridge (5-11, 190, So.) |
| LOT | 73 | Jason Meinke (6-5, 278, Sr.) |
| LOG | 78 | Ryan Orton (6-4, 284, So.) |
| C | 61 | Trey Davis (6-2, 276, So.) |
| ROG | 73 | Matt Carufel (6-5, 303, Jr.) |
| ROT | 71 | Jeff Wills (6-7, 375, Jr.) |
| TE | 48 | Nick Tow-Arnett (6-2, 249, Sr.) |
| WR | 7 | Eric Decker (6-2, 215, Sr.) |
| WR | 16 | Ben Kuznia (6-0, 186, Sr.) |
| WR | 2 | Brandon Green (6-0, 180, So.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 93 | Derrick Onwuachi (6-5, 250, Sr.) |
| LDT | 51 | Eric Small (6-2, 301, Sr.) |
| RDT | 99 | Garrett Brown (6-2, 303, Sr.) |
| RDE | 90 | Raymond Henderson (6-5, 251, Sr.) |
| SLB | 21 | Simoni Lawrence (6-1, 205, Sr.) |
| MLB | 30 | Lee Campbell (6-3, 256, Sr.) |
| WLB | 32 | Nate Triplett (6-3, 236, Sr.) |
| LCB | 15 | Traye Simmons (5-11, 175, Sr.) |
| RCB | 24 | Marcus Sherels (5-11, 166, Sr.) |
| FS | 49 | Scott Jilek (5-11, 205, Jr.) |
| SS | 27 | Kyle Theret (5-11, 185, Jr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 37 | Eric Ellestad (6-2, 195, Jr.) |
| P | 37 | Dan Orseske (6-3, 195, Fr.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1**
**Hayo Carpenter**
*WR, 5-11, 185*
One of the nation's top junior-college receivers, Carpenter will be an immediate contributor for the Gophers.

**2**
**Michael Carter**
*CB, 5-11, 154*
Carter was a steal from West Virginia. Once he adds weight, he'll bring good speed and coverage skills to the table.

**3**
**Hasan Lipscomb**
*RB, 5-10, 201*
Lipscomb is a powerful, speedy back who should thrive in the Big Ten. He is talented enough to see early action.

**4**
**Moses Alipate**
*QB, 6-5, 230*
One of the most gifted athletes in the Midwest, Alipate could be one of the Big Ten's biggest steals.

**5**
**Bryant Allen**
*ATH, 6-0, 160*
Allen was also recruited for basketball at Minnesota. He will give the Gophers a nice boost of athleticism.

MARK J. REBILAS / US PRESSWIRE

# NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Towson | |
| S.12 | Eastern Michigan | |
| S.19 | @SYRACUSE | 30-10 |
| S.26 | Minnesota | 24-17 |
| O.3 | @PURDUE | 48-26 |
| O.10 | Miami (OH) | |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **O.17** | **@Michigan State** | **20-37** |
| The Wildcats want to be first-division players in the Big Ten. To do that, they have to knock off a big name, and this gives them the chance. | | |
| O.24 | Indiana | 19-21 |
| O.31 | Penn State | |
| N.7 | @IOWA | 22-17 |
| N.14 | @ILLINOIS | 27-10 |
| N.21 | Wisconsin | |

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL

» MOTOR CITY BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE C**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Great secondary is the best unit on stout defense.
- Will play smart, tough football.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 13 | Mike Kafka (6-3, 210, Sr.) |
| RB | 25 | Stephen Simmons (5-8, 175, Jr.) |
| LOT | 75 | Al Netter (6-6, 290, So.) |
| LOG | 63 | Keegan Grant (6-2, 285, Jr.) |
| C | 65 | Ben Burkett (6-4, 280, So.) |
| ROG | 64 | Doug Bartels (6-4, 285, So.) |
| ROT | 79 | Neal Deiters (6-8, 330, Fr.) |
| SB | 80 | Brendan Mitchell (6-3, 250, Sr.) |
| WR | 11 | Jeremy Ebert (6-0, 180, So.) |
| WR | 5 | Sidney Stewart (6-1, 185, Jr.) |
| WR | 88 | Martin Bayless (6-2, 200, Fr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 99 | Corey Wootton (6-1, 265, Sr.) |
| LDT | 98 | Corbin Bryant (6-4, 275, Jr.) |
| RDT | 79 | Adam Hahn (6-4, 295, Sr.) |
| RDE | 91 | Brian Arnfelt (6-5, 255, Fr.) |
| SLB | 41 | Quentin Davie (6-4, 215, Jr.) |
| MLB | 57 | Nate Williams (6-2, 225, Jr.) |
| WLB | 35 | Ben Johnson (6-4, 210, Fr.) |
| LCB | 26 | Jordan Mabin (5-11, 180, So.) |
| RCB | 24 | Sherrick McManis (6-1, 190, Sr.) |
| FS | 17 | Brad Phillips (6-4, 210, Sr.) |
| SS | 4 | Brendan Smith (6-1, 215, Sr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 1 | Stefan Demos (5-10, 185, Jr.) |
| P | 1 | Stefan Demos (5-10, 185, Jr.) |

### QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-4
**Big Ten:** 5-3
*(lost to Missouri in the Alamo Bowl, 30-23)*

**Coach:** Pat Fitzgerald
4th year (19-18)
**Career record:** 19-18
**Offensive coordinator:**
Mick McCall (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Mike Hankwitz (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Ryan Field (49,256)
**Tickets:** 847-491-CATS
**Site:** Evanston, Ill.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.nusports.com

COREY WOOTTON » DE

CHUCK RYDLEWSKI

### 5-YEAR WINS TREND

Out of the tragedy of predecessor Randy Walker's death, Pat Fitzgerald has built one of the more successful Big Ten programs. Last season's nine-win performance proves the young Northwestern alum's ascension to the head-coaching position was no mistake. If he replicates that success in 2009 with an offense in need of considerable renovation, Fitzgerald will become a hot commodity beyond the confines of Evanston, Ill.

Northwestern will have to rely—at least early in the season—on defense. With eight starters back from a unit that held eight teams to 20 points or fewer last year, the Wildcats have the potential to have one of the conference's best defenses. It starts up front with junior end Corey Wootton, a first-team all-league choice last year who made 16 stops behind the line. Inside, Corbin Bryant and Adam Hahn are solid, while Vince Browne made 7.5 tackles for loss in 2008.

Quentin Davie, who made 9.5 tackles for loss last year, returns at strongside linebacker, while Nate Williams is back in the middle.

The Wildcats will be especially tough in the secondary, where all four starters return, led by Brad Phillips (109 tackles, 3 INTs) at safety. Sophomore corner Jordan Mabin picked off three passes last year, while senior Sherrick McManis broke up 12. Senior safety Brendan Smith made 82 stops in 2008. If that isn't enough, junior Justan Vaughn, who started the first two games of the year at corner before hurting his shoulder, is back to vie for a starting berth.

When C.J. Bacher went down with an injury last year, Mike Kafka stepped in and ran for a Big Ten quarterback record of 217 yards against Minnesota. Kafka also completed 69.2 percent of his passes last year but did throw three interceptions.

He'll need some help at running back, since Tyrell Sutton is gone. Stephen Simmons made three starts last year and gained 189 yards, but averaged only 2.9 yards per carry. Strong spring performances by redshirt freshman Alex Daniel and sophomore Jeravin Matthews put them in the running mix for work this fall.

The receiving corps must be rebuilt, too. Jeremy Ebert and Sidney Stewart showed potential last season, but none was adept at getting the ball down the field. A host of younger players, including Martin Bayless, will look for work, too. Seniors Brendan Mitchell and Mark Woodsum are the leading candidates for the "Superback" position, a hybrid tight end/halfback spot that gets part-time use.

Up front, four starters return from a line that protected the passer well last year but needs to get better at opening holes for the ground game. Since three of those regulars last year—center Ben Burkett, right guard Doug Bartels and left tackle Al Netter—were freshmen, improvement is almost guaranteed.

Expect junior Stefan Demos to have a tired leg this year. Not only will he punt (after averaging 39.0 yards per kick in '08), but he'll also handle field goals and looked solid during the spring.

### THE NEXT BIG THING

***MIKE KAFKA, QB***

The senior hopes to make the transformation to a reliable spread triggerman by matching his excellent ground skills with efficient passing.

### RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Patrick Ward**
*OL, 6-6, 295*
Ward was recruited nationally but decided to stay home and play in the area for Northwestern.

**2 — Davon Custis**
*DE, 6-5, 220*
Custis emerged with a great senior season and was one of the top players in Ohio. He should help quickly.

**3 — Damien Proby**
*LB, 6-0, 208*
A Nevada native who was overlooked by many Pac-10 teams, Proby is a headhunter who can run.

**4 — Will Studlien**
*LB, 6-2, 200*
Studlien rebounded from an injury that caused him to miss most of his senior season. He's a major steal.

**5 — Arby Fields**
*RB, 5-8, 185*
He dominated in California's "Inland Empire." A true all-purpose back, Fields fits Northwestern's offense perfectly.

# 10 PURDUE BOILERMAKERS

The great coach-in-waiting experiment will unfold this year in West Lafayette, Ind., where Danny Hope takes over for Joe Tiller after a rough 2008 campaign that included growing pains and a little interior dissension. As Hope prepares for his first season at the helm—after serving as offensive coordinator last season and posting a 35-22 record during five years at Eastern Kentucky—he does so with an offense that needs to find some skill players.

Hope thought he would at least have Justin Siller to count on, but the quarterback who started three games last year was tossed from school in the spring because of academic violations. That leaves the Boilermakers thin at quarterback and puts a lot of pressure on senior Joey Elliott, who threw only 15 passes last year behind Siller and Curtis Painter. Elliott was solid during offseason drills, completing 20 of 33 passes in the spring game for 193 yards. We'll see how good he is over a whole season, or if Elliott is even able to take the job from redshirt freshman Caleb TerBush, who threw for 1,575 yards and 16 touchdowns as a prep senior.

The winner of the battle should be well protected, since four returning starters populate the line. Trouble is, the running back and receiver positions are void of experience. Junior Dan Dierking, son of former Purdue star Scott Dierking, who helped lead the Boilermakers to their dramatic 1976 upset of No. 1 Michigan, showed some promise during the spring, as did sophomore Ralph Bolden. Don't be surprised if touted freshman Al-Terek McBurse contributes as well.

The receiver position is far more unclear, since only junior Keith Smith is back among those who made contributions last year. Smith caught 49 passes and scored twice, but he is a possession receiver, not a home run threat. Senior Aaron Valentin (11 catches) has the ability to make big plays, while senior Royce Adams and tight ends Jeff Panfil and Jeff Lindsay could also contribute.

The defense returns more, but the loss of top-flight coordinator Brock Spack (now the coach at Illinois State) means the Boilers have to adjust to a new system installed by Donn Landholm, another Eastern Kentucky expatriate.

Junior end Ryan Kerrigan can get into enemy backfields, while outside linebacker Joe Holland is solid against the run and in coverage. Corners Brandon King and David Pender were part of a pass defense that allowed opposing quarterbacks to complete only 56.3 percent of their passes last season. But Purdue intercepted just 10 passes, a total that must increase.

Chris Summers is back to punt, but he needs to improve on last season's 38.4-yard average. He will battle Carson Wiggs for the kicking job.

Now that Hope has taken over and the transition from Tiller is complete, last year's instability should be gone. But it will take a while for the Boilermakers to make a push into the first division of the Big Ten again.

RYAN KERRIGAN ▸ DE

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***DAN DIERKING, RB***

Purdue needs help in the backfield, and the son of former Purdue and NFL back Scott Dierking should step in and provide reliable productivity.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 4-8
**Big Ten:** 2-6

**Coach:** Danny Hope, 1st year
**Offensive coordinator:** Gary Nord (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:** Donn Landholm (1st year)

**Stadium:** Ross-Ade Stadium (62,500)
**Tickets:** 765-494-3194
**Site:** West Lafayette, Ind.
**Official athletic Web site:** www.purduesports.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

KEY
Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Toledo | |
| S.12 | @OREGON | 26-32 (OT) |
| S.19 | Northern Illinois | |
| S.26 | Notre Dame | 21-38 |
| O.3 | Northwestern | 26-48 |
| O.10 | @MINNESOTA | 6-17 |
| O.17 | Ohio State | 3-16 |
| O.24 | Illinois | |
| O.31 | @WISCONSIN | |
| N.7 | @MICHIGAN | 48-42 |
| N.14 | Michigan State | 7-21 |
| N.21 | @INDIANA | 62-10 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

If the Boilers can't beat the rising Gophers, they'll likely be relegated to the second tier once again and look at a longer rebuilding path than expected.

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE C

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Questions at skill positions will create trouble in league play.
- Must create more turnovers to make things easier on offense.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 14 | Joey Elliott (6-2, 211, Sr.) |
| RB | 25 | Dan Dierking (5-10, 185, Jr.) |
| LOT | 68 | Dennis Kelly (6-8, 270, So.) |
| LOG | 75 | Zach Reckman (6-6, 308, Sr.) |
| C | 54 | Jared Zwilling (6-4, 293, Sr.) |
| ROG | 73 | Ken Plue (6-7, 361, So.) |
| ROT | 61 | Zach Jones (6-5, 300, Sr.) |
| TE | 85 | Jeff Panfil (6-5, 226, Jr.) |
| WR | 17 | Aaron Valentin (6-1, 205, Sr.) |
| WR | 8 | Keith Smith (6-2, 226, Jr.) |
| WR | 10 | Royce Adams (6-0, 190, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 97 | Gerald Gooden (6-3, 235, So.) |
| LDT | 92 | Mike Neal (6-4, 293, Sr.) |
| RDT | 93 | Kawann Short (6-4, 318, Fr.) |
| RDE | 94 | Ryan Kerrigan (6-4, 255, Jr.) |
| SLB | 29 | Jason Werner (6-4, 221, Sr.) |
| MLB | 47 | Chris Carlino (6-2, 215, So.) |
| WLB | 30 | Joe Holland (6-1, 211, So.) |
| LCB | 7 | Brandon King (5-11, 192, Sr.) |
| RCB | 9 | David Pender (6-1, 180, Sr.) |
| FS | 2 | Torri Williams (6-2, 208, Sr.) |
| SS | 22 | Dwight Mclean (6-1, 203, Sr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 37 | Carson Wiggs (6-0, 194, So.) |
| P | 13 | Chris Summers (6-1, 179, Sr.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Al-Terek McBurse** *RB, 6-0, 204*
He's a four-star recruit from Florida and has a shot to help the Boilermakers immediately.

**2 — Antwon Higgs** *DE, 6-2, 250*
Another Florida native, he was one of the state's better run-stoppers and has a nice burst off the edge.

**3 — Gabe Holmes** *TE, 6-6, 210*
He's an athletic tight end who can play in space as a slot receiver. Another solid pickup for the Boilermakers out of Florida.

**4 — Eric McDaniel** *DT, 6-2, 295*
McDaniel was one of the better interior defensive linemen in always-loaded Georgia.

**5 — Eric Williams** *WR, 5-10, 195*
Williams will be a threat for the Boilermakers in space. He has good speed and the ability to make big plays at key moments.

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

# INDIANA HOOSIERS 11

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | Eastern Kentucky | |
| S.12 | Western Michigan | |
| S.19 | @AKRON | |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.26** | **@MICHIGAN** | |
| 0.3 | Ohio State | |
| 0.10 | @VIRGINIA | |
| 0.17 | Illinois | 13-55 |
| 0.24 | @NORTHWESTERN | 21-19 |
| 0.31 | @IOWA | 9-45 |
| N.7 | Wisconsin | 20-55 |
| N.14 | @PENN STATE | 7-34 |
| N.21 | Purdue | 10-62 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.26 @MICHIGAN**

The Hoosiers open Big Ten play with a visit to the Wolverines, who struggled last year. The team that wins can feel good about its chances to improve.

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Lewis' dismissal means young wideouts must step up.
- Youth at running back could be a problem.
- Both lines must get tougher.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 4 | Ben Chappell (6-3, 235, Jr.) |
| RB | 28 | Darius Willis (6-0,219, r-Fr.) |
| LOT | 76 | Rodger Saffold (6-5, 306, Sr.) |
| LOG | 70 | Justin Pagan (6-5, 308, So.) |
| C | 64 | Pete Saxon (6-6, 310, Sr.) |
| ROG | 79 | Cody Faulkner (6-5, 315, Jr.) |
| ROT | 73 | James Brewer (6-8, 336, Jr.) |
| TE | 87 | Troy Wagner (6-5, 261, Sr.) |
| WR | 1 | Terrance Turner (6-3, 200, Jr.) |
| WR | 88 | Damario Belcher (6-5, 209, So.) |
| WR | 81 | Tandon Doss (6-3, 185, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 92 | Greg Middleton (6-3, 275, Sr.) |
| LDT | 75 | Nicholas Sliger (6-3, 282, Fr.) |
| RDT | 52 | Jarrod Smith (6-4, 300, Jr.) |
| RDE | 57 | Jammie Kirlew (6-3, 264, Sr.) |
| SLB | 34 | Will Patterson (6-1, 236, Sr.) |
| MLB | 43 | Matt Mayberry (6-2, 236, Sr.) |
| WLB | 25 | Justin Carrington (6-0, 222, Sr.) |
| LCB | 10 | Donnell Jones (5-10, 210, So.) |
| RCB | 29 | Chris Adkins (6-1, 185, So.) |
| FS | 8 | Nick Polk (6-0, 225, Sr.) |
| SS | 20 | Austin Thomas (6-2, 221, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

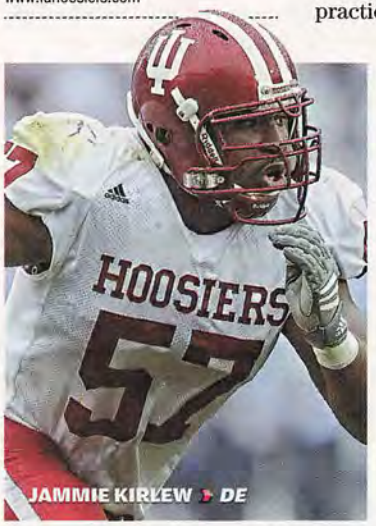
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 91 | Nick Ford (5-9, 194, Jr.) |
| P | 12 | Chris Hagerup (6-5, 201, So.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 3-9
**Big Ten:** 1-7

**Coach:** Bill Lynch
3rd year (10-15)
**Career record:** 10-15
**Offensive coordinator:**
Matt Canada (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinators:**
Brian George (5th year)
Joe Palcic (5th year)

**Stadium:** Memorial Stadium (49,225)
**Tickets:** 866-IUSPORTS
**Site:** Bloomington
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.iuhoosiers.com



JAMMIE KIRLEW ▸ DE

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

It may be unfair to put coach Bill Lynch on a warm chair heading into 2009 given that it is just his third year at Indiana and that he also took over under extreme circumstances following the death of former coach Terry Hoeppner. But patience is in short supply in college football these days. If Lynch follows up last year's 3-9 campaign with another clunker, no one will remember the bowl trip in '07.

Not that doom is certain. Indiana returns 18 starters (including punter Chris Hagerup) from last year's 11th-place team, and if it can fix the ground attack and shore up a pass defense that was generous last year, it could make some strides.

Perhaps the most intriguing development of the offseason was Lynch's decision to move Kellen Lewis from quarterback to receiver and to hand the signal-calling job to Ben Chappell. However, those plans were dashed in late April after Lewis was dismissed from the Hoosiers for violating team rules.

Lewis, a senior who holds the school record for career passing touchdowns (48), was also suspended for all of spring practice last year, again for violating team rules.

Lewis' dismissal will hurt the receiving corps in terms of depth, but there's still some talented starters. Young wideouts Damario Belcher and Tandon Doss performed well last year and have potential, as does junior Terrance Turner. Chappell, who looked good during the spring, needs to become more accurate after completing only 52.3 percent of his passes last year.

The ground game needs attention now that Marcus Thigpen is gone, and Lewis, last year's second-leading rusher, has moved outside. Good news comes from the debut of redshirt freshman Darius Willis, who combines speed and power. He'll team with senior Demetrius McCray in what could be a potent combination. Trea Burgess could figure there, too.

Since the Hoosiers gave up more than 40 points in six of their nine losses last year, considerable improvement is necessary. Opponents scored 27 times on the ground against Indiana in 2008, so the front seven needs to get tougher.

Linebacker Matt Mayberry and end Jammie Kirlew (18.5 tackles for loss) are the stalwarts there and should get help from Will Patterson, if his injured knee has recovered completely.

The pass defense has plenty of holdovers, but it wasn't too stingy last year. Healthy returns from torn ACLs by safeties Austin Thomas and Nick Polk will help, and continued maturation by sophomore corners Chris Adkins and Donnell Jones should make Indiana more successful in the secondary.

Just to make sure, the Hoosiers moved wideout Ray Fisher, who led the team with 40 catches last year, to corner.

Indiana's youth in '08 was a large reason for its troubles, but the Hoosiers have to show they can compete physically.

Lynch may well have life beyond this campaign if Indiana struggles again, but he doesn't want to take that chance.

His seat will be really hot by then.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Duwyce Wilson**
*WR, 6-3, 190*
One of the top receivers in the Midwest as a prep senior. A combination of sure hands and speed.

**2 — Ted Bolser**
*TE, 6-5, 212*
One of the top tight ends in Ohio, Bolser is a nice fit for what Indiana asks from its players.

**3 — Charles Chapman**
*OL, 6-6, 274*
Chapman was overshadowed by the deep offensive line class in Michigan, but the Hoosiers got a good one.

**4 — Adam Replogle**
*DT, 6-3, 265*
A run-stuffing defensive tackle who also provides a nice pass rush, Replogle was a good recruiting victory for Indiana.

**5 — Nick Zachery**
*ATH, 6-1, 195*
Dominated small-school ball in Indiana and was underrecruited, Zachery's the type of speedy athlete Indiana has been missing for years.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***DARIUS WILLIS, RB***

This runner-up for Indiana's Mr. Football in 2007 will get a chance to become the Hoosiers' feature back after redshirting last season. He rushed for 1,728 yards and 28 touchdowns as a prep senior.

RANDY LITZINGER

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

# BIG 12

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

## NORTH

1. Kansas
2. Nebraska
3. Missouri
4. Colorado
5. Kansas State
6. Iowa State

## SOUTH

1. Texas
2. Oklahoma
3. Oklahoma State
4. Texas Tech
5. Baylor
6. Texas A&M

## RATING THE PLAYERS

**Fastest Receiver**
Brandon Banks, Kansas State

**Best Hands**
Kerry Meier, WR, Kansas

**Best Passing QB**
Sam Bradford, Oklahoma

**Best Running QB**
Robert Griffin, Baylor

**Most Elusive RB**
DeMarco Murray, Oklahoma

**Best Instincts**
Todd Reesing, QB, Kansas

**Best Athlete**
Robert Griffin, QB, Baylor

**Best Under Pressure**
Colt McCoy, QB, Texas

**Top NFL Prospect**
Sergio Kindle, LB, Texas

**Top Impact Freshman**
Christine Michael, RB, Texas A&M

**Hardest Hitter**
Jordan Lake, FS, Baylor

**Biggest Underachiever**
Darrell Scott, RB, Colorado

**Best Home-Field Advantage**
Oklahoma

**Best Fans**
Nebraska

**Best Mascot**
Ralphie the Buffalo, Colorado

**Best Stadium**
Kyle Field, Texas A&M

# Big 12 should keep college football fans across the nation well entertained

**By Blair Kerkhoff,** *The Kansas City Star*

For entertainment value, nothing beats the Big 12. On and off the field.

Spread offenses keep scoreboards spinning. Controversies like the league's tiebreaker system that sent Oklahoma to the Big 12 title game instead of Texas (despite the Longhorns' victory over the Sooners earlier in the season) kept the conference in the news.

In the end, the Big 12 won a majority of bowl games but not the big one, with Oklahoma falling to Florida for the BCS National Championship.

Bradford put up sensational numbers last season for an offense that proved unstoppable until it met the Gators. If Oklahoma can square away an offensive line that lost four starters, it will again be a national title contender.

The same goes for Texas, which returns a top-notch quarterback in Colt McCoy. All McCoy did last year was set an NCAA record for completion percentage in a season (76.7) and finish second in the Heisman balloting.

Bradford and McCoy aren't the only returning stars. Wide receiver Dez Bryant, running back Kendall Hunter and quarterback Zac Robinson may give Oklahoma State the best skill-set trio in the nation.

Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing will throw to Dezmon Briscoe and Kerry Meier, who combined for 189 receptions and 23 touchdowns last season.

Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin was terrific as a freshman and his decision to drop track (where he's a champion hurdler) to focus on football should make him better.

Defenses will attempt to keep up with Nebraska tackle Ndamukong Suh (who dominated in the Cornhuskers' Gator Bowl victory over Clemson), Missouri linebacker Sean Weatherspoon, Oklahoma's Travis Lewis and Baylor's Joe Pawelek.

Like last year, the Big 12 defenses will have a hard time matching the star power of some of the nation's most productive offenses.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Barton Simmons, *Rivals.com*

**1. TEXAS** The Longhorns signed three five-star prospects from Texas, including quarterback Garrett Gilbert.
**2. OKLAHOMA** Bob Stoops signed five defensive prospects ranked in the top 100 nationally.
**3. TEXAS A&M** The talent level is increasing for the Aggies. Five-star running back Christine Michael will contribute immediately.
**4. NEBRASKA** Led by quarterback Cody Green and running back Rex Burkhead, the Huskers signed a group of athletes with huge numbers in high school.
**5. KANSAS** The Jayhawks secured their class by offering its recruits the opportunity to play their position of choice.
**6. TEXAS TECH** The Mike Leach offensive machine shouldn't skip a beat with the skill-position players heading to Lubbock.
**7. OKLAHOMA STATE** Most of the '09 class was devoted to defense, but the offensive players that did sign will make an immediate impact.
**8. MISSOURI** The Tigers landed a five-star prospect in defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson.
**9. COLORADO** It is a good sign when you steal a commitment from Florida. Now the Buffs have in-state recruit Nick Kasa.
**10. BAYLOR** The class is highlighted by skill-position players who should build around quarterback Robert Griffin.
**11. IOWA STATE** The departure of Gene Chizik put the Cyclones in a bind. This recruiting class reflects that predicament.
**12. KANSAS STATE** Bill Snyder got a late start on this year's recruiting and needs to get Kansas State's talent level back up.

## ALL-BIG 12

### OFFENSE

| | |
|---|---|
| QB | Sam Bradford, Jr., Oklahoma |
| RB | DeMarco Murray, Jr., Oklahoma |
| RB | Kendall Hunter, Jr., Oklahoma State |
| OL | Brandon Carter, Sr., Texas Tech |
| OL | Adam Ulatoski, Sr., Texas |
| OL | Trent Williams, Sr., Oklahoma |
| OL | Russell Okung, Sr., Oklahoma State |
| OL | Nick Stringer, Sr., Kansas State |
| WR | Dez Bryant, Jr., Oklahoma State |
| WR | Jordan Shipley, Sr., Texas |
| TE | Jermaine Gresham, Sr., Oklahoma |

### DEFENSE

| | |
|---|---|
| DL | Ndamukong Suh, Sr., Nebraska |
| DL | Gerald McCoy, Jr., Oklahoma |
| DL | Brandon Harold, So., Kansas State |
| DL* | Sergio Kindle, Sr., Texas |
| LB | Sean Weatherspoon, Sr., Missouri |
| LB | Joe Pawelek, Sr., Baylor |
| LB | Travis Lewis, So., Oklahoma |
| DB | Darrell Stuckey, Sr., Kansas |
| DB | Jordan Lake, Sr., Baylor |
| DB | Dominique Franks, Jr., Oklahoma |
| DB | Earl Thomas, So., Texas |

### SPECIALISTS

| | |
|---|---|
| K | Alex Henery, Jr., Nebraska |
| P | Derek Epperson, Jr., Baylor |

* *Kindle is projected as a DE/LB*

## FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

**1** Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin becomes a national figure by leading the Bears to a major upset (Oklahoma? Texas?).

**2** Texas quarterback Colt McCoy will keep the Heisman Trophy in the Big 12 with another large season. Remember, Heisman voters don't often go for repeat winners like Tim Tebow and Sam Bradford.

**3** New Iowa State Coach Paul Rhoads will have the Cyclones playing competitively by midseason, which didn't happen last year.

**4** Whoever has the most to gain in the Kansas-Missouri season finale will lose it at Arrowhead Stadium because that's the nature of the Border War.

## ASCENDING

**BAYLOR** This veteran team is led by a dynamic young quarterback in Robert Griffin. The Bears have yet to play in a bowl game as a Big 12 member. That streak should end this year.

## DESCENDING

**TEXAS TECH** In a close vote over Missouri. The Red Raiders grabbed a share of first place in the South last season, but coach Mike Leach has to replace several offensive stars.

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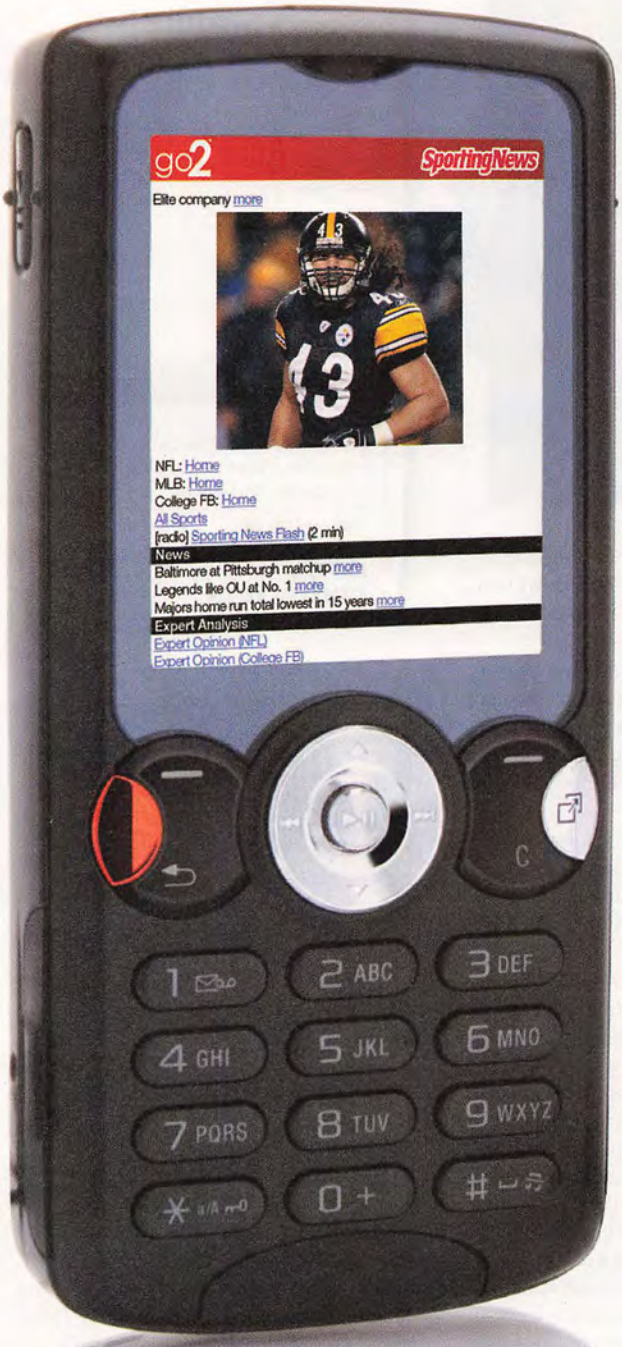


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BIG 12 NORTH PRESEASON RANK

# 1 KANSAS JAYHAWKS

TOP 25 PICK

TODD REESING ▸ QB

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Northern Colorado | |
| S.12 | @UTEP | |
| S.19 | Duke | |
| S.26 | Southern Miss | |
| O.10 | Iowa State | 35-33 |
| O.17 | @COLORADO | 30-14 |
| O.24 | Oklahoma | 31-45 |
| O.31 | @TEXAS TECH | 21-63 |
| N.7 | @KANSAS STATE | 52-21 |
| N.14 | Nebraska | 35-45 |
| N.21 | @TEXAS | 7-35 |

### GAME TO WATCH

N.28 Missouri* 40-37

The Border War at Arrowhead Stadium has become a scene-stealer. The Jayhawks won in the snow last year, and Mizzou proved victorious in a mega clash two years ago.

* *at Kansas City, MO*

**BOWL PROJECTION** ▸▸ HOLIDAY BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ B+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Offense should be outstanding if the line comes along.
- Darrell Stuckey is one of the league's top defenders.
- Mangino has the program headed in the right direction.

A different kind of expectation greets Kansas in 2009.

Last season's hopes were unrealistic. The Jayhawks started in the mid-teens in the preseason polls, and that was more of a comment on the previous year's finish rather than the reality of personnel changes and an upgraded schedule.

The 2008 Jayhawks didn't lose many starters from their '07 Orange Bowl championship squad, but every one of them was an NFL draft selection or all-conference performer. Coach Mark Mangino has improved this program, but it hadn't reached the point of replacing NFL talent with NFL talent.

So when Kansas ran up against similar foes, the breaks went the other way. A tough defeat at South Florida was the first indication. Conference losses to Oklahoma, Texas Tech, Nebraska and Texas left the Jayhawks needing to upset Missouri on the season's final week to avoid a .500 finish, one year after the program's most glorious season.

And that's what happened, in spectacular fashion.

Wide receiver Kerry Meier somehow slipped past defenders and hauled in Todd Reesing's 26-yard touchdown pass with 27 seconds remaining, and Kansas then blocked a field-goal attempt on the final play to defeat its bitter rival in snowy Arrowhead Stadium

Kansas rode the momentum of that triumph into an easy Insight Bowl win over Minnesota, and an 8-5 record became easier to digest.

Now the Jayhawks come into this season with an expectation scaled back from a year ago. Kansas won't be 13th or 14th in the preseason polls, but it will be a division favorite, which doesn't happen often.

Kansas gets the nod for a few reasons. The Jayhawks return their starting quarterback—and Reesing is a good one, maybe the best this program has produced.

The defense loses its talented linebacking corps, but it should be better up front and in the secondary.

Also, Kansas doesn't visit either campus of Big 12 contenders Nebraska and Missouri. This year's Jayhawks meet the Cornhuskers in Lawrence, where they've won the previous two meetings. And the Border War series with the Tigers runs for two more years in Kansas City.

Offensively, Kansas is dynamic. Unless there's an unexpected collapse, Reesing will leave as the most successful quarterback in Kansas' history.

The school records the senior doesn't already own should belong to Reesing by season's end. But the dynamic number is his 20-6 record as a starter, which includes two bowl victories. The big news at the position is the development of reserve Kale Pick, a redshirt freshman. This is important because it allows Kerry Meier to devote all of his practice time to wide receiver.

Meier came to Kansas as a quarterback and shifted to wideout as a sophomore. As a primary target last year, Meier caught 97 passes for 1,045 yards. Nobody is more sure-handed, and Meier's an excellent route runner. Talk about your total offensive machines. He'll likely leave Kansas with more than 1,500 yards passing, 1,500 yards receiving and 400 yards rushing.

But Meier is not the team's top receiving threat. That label belongs to Dezmon Briscoe. He caught 92 passes

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

| Todd Reesing | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 13 | 148.52 | 495-329-13 | 66.5 | 3888 | 32 | 299.1 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jake Sharp | 13 | 186 | 860 | 4.6 | 12 | 66.2 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kerry Meier | 13 | 97 | 1045 | 10.8 | 8 | 80.4 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Darrell Stuckey | 13 | 60 | 38 | 98 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jake Laptad | 13 | 7 | 36 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Darrell Stuckey | 5 | 33 | 6.6 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5
**Big 12:** 4-4
*(beat Minnesota in the Insight Bowl, 42-21)*

**Coach:** Mark Mangino
8th year (45-41)
**Career record:** 45-41
**Offensive coordinator:**
Ed Warinner (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Clint Bowen (4th year)

**Stadium:** Memorial Stadium (50,071)
**Tickets:** 800-34-HAWKS
**Site:** Lawrence
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.kuathletics.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 5 | Todd Reesing (5-11, 200, Sr.) |
| | 7 | Kale Pick (6-2, 200, r-Fr.) |
| RB | 1 | Jake Sharp (5-10, 195, Sr.) |
| | 3 | Jocques Crawford (6-1, 230, Sr.) |
| LOT | 77 | Jeremiah Hatch (6-3, 311, So.) |
| | 63 | Ian Wolfe (6-5, 295, Jr.) |
| LOG | 59 | Sal Capra (6-3, 292, Jr.) |
| | 71 | John Williams (6-4, 338, Fr.) |
| C | 76 | Brad Thorson (6-3, 290, Jr.) |
| | 75 | Nathan D'Cunha (6-6, 307, Jr.) |
| ROG | 68 | Carl Wilson (6-4, 292, Jr.) |
| | 69 | Trevor Marrongelli (6-4, 285, Fr.) |
| ROT | 74 | Jeff Spikes (6-6, 314, Fr.) |
| | 67 | Ben Lueken (6-6, 300, So.) |
| TE | 86 | Tim Biere (6-4, 243, So.) |
| | 11 | A.J. Steward (6-4, 228, So.) |
| WR | 10 | Kerry Meier (6-3, 220, Sr.) |
| | 85 | Rod Harris (6-2, 200, So.) |
| WR | 80 | Dezmon Briscoe (6-3, 200, Jr.) |
| | 28 | Daymond Patterson (5-9, 175, So.) |
| WR | 81 | Johnathan Wilson (6-3, 189, Jr.) |
| | 9 | Raimond Pendleton (5-11, 192, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 91 | Jake Laptad (6-4, 258, Jr.) |
| | 96 | Dustin Spears (6-5, 242, Sr.) |
| LDT | 94 | Caleb Blakesley (6-5, 292, Sr.) |
| | 97 | Richard Johnson (6-2, 280, So.) |
| RDT | 99 | Jamal Greene (6-4, 303, Jr.) |
| | 93 | Darius Parish (6-4, 341, So.) |
| RDE | 47 | Maxwell Onyegbule (6-5, 257, Jr.) |
| | 84 | Jeff Wheeler (6-7, 260, Sr.) |
| SLB | 22 | Angus Quigley (6-2, 226, Sr.) |
| | 45 | Justin Springer (6-4, 242, Jr.) |
| MLB | 41 | Arist Wright (6-0, 220, Sr.) |
| | 58 | Jake Schermer (6-2, 222, Sr.) |
| WLB | 52 | Steven Johnson (6-2, 225, So.) |
| | 38 | Josh Richardson (6-4, 220, Fr.) |
| LCB | 46 | Justin Thornton (6-1, 213, Sr.) |
| | 17 | Calvin Rubles (6-3, 200, Jr.) |
| RCB | 28 | Daymond Patterson (5-9, 175, So.) |
| | 29 | Isiah Barfield (6-0, 184, So.) |
| FS | 26 | Phillip Strozier (6-0, 200, Jr.) |
| | 16 | Chris Harris (6-0, 185, Jr.) |
| SS | 25 | Darrell Stuckey (6-1, 205, Sr.) |
| | 30 | Anthony Davis (6-0, 192, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 14 | Jacob Branstetter (5-10, 175, Jr.) |
| P | 18 | Alonso Rojas (6-3, 220, Jr.) |

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | KANSAS | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 434 | 375 |
| Points Per Game | 33.4 | 28.8 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 301 | 277 |
| Rushing | 111 | 91 |
| Passing | 172 | 168 |
| Penalty | 18 | 18 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1648 | 1600 |
| Yards gained rushing | 1988 | 1905 |
| Yards lost rushing | 340 | 305 |
| Rushing Attempts | 445 | 406 |
| Average Per Rush | 3.7 | 3.9 |
| Average Per Game | 126.8 | 123.1 |
| TDs Rushing | 23 | 22 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 3973 | 3557 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 500-333-13 | 521-318-15 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.9 | 6.8 |
| Average Per Catch | 11.9 | 11.2 |
| Average Per Game | 305.6 | 273.6 |
| TDs Passing | 33 | 27 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5621 | 5157 |
| Total Plays | 945 | 927 |
| Average Per Play | 5.9 | 5.6 |
| Average Per Game | 432.4 | 396.7 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 48-842 | 66-1414 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 24-278 | 29-310 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 15-122 | 13-94 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | KANSAS | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 17.5 | 21.4 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 11.6 | 10.7 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 8.1 | 7.2 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 21-9 | 22-10 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 62-576 | 75-589 |
| Average Per Game | 44.3 | 45.3 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 58-2358 | 57-2267 |
| Average Per Punt | 40.7 | 39.8 |
| Net punt average | 33.9 | 33.8 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 30:25 | 29:35 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 93/184 | 74/183 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 51% | 40% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 8/16 | 12/26 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 50% | 46% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 28-195 | 31-230 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 25 |
| TDS SCORED | 57 | 50 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 11-14 | 9-16 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 55-57 | 48-48 |
| ATTENDANCE | 356351 | 277329 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/50907 | 4/69332 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 2/64113 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kansas | 86 | 130 | 113 | 105 | 434 |
| Opponent | 70 | 95 | 117 | 93 | 375 |

and set school records with 15 touchdowns and 1,407 yards, including 14 catches in the bowl victory.

When the Jayhawks' kick-return game stalled last season, Briscoe took over the reins and averaged 27.4 yards per return.

Early last season, Kansas wasn't getting much rushing production from the spread offense. Finally, in the league opener at Iowa State, Jake Sharp broke through and grabbed the position. He finished with 860 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Jocques Crawford, in his second year after transferring from Cisco (Texas) Junior College, looks to make a bigger impact this season, while a new face to the backfield is Drew Dudley, who moves from linebacker to fullback.

A.J. Steward switches from quarterback to tight end, where he looks to complement Tim Biere. That's one piece of the offensive line that should be in good shape. Starting tackles Jeff Spikes and Jeremiah Hatch are back. Kansas will need interior lineman candidates to step up.

Defensively, the Jayhawks will offer a different look.

"We're playing less and less with three linebackers," Mangino says. "Close to 80 percent of the time we're playing with two linebackers and an extra safety because of the way Big 12 offenses have evolved."

Darrell Stuckey led the team with 98 tackles and five interceptions last year. Plenty of experience is offered with Justin Thornton at cornerback, Phillip Strozier at safety and Daymond Patterson, the wide receiver-turned-corner.

Chris Harris was a starting corner before moving to nickel, and junior-college transfer Calvin Rubles is also expected to join the rotation.

The defensive line is built around tackle Caleb Blakesley and end Jake Laptad (7 sacks in '08). Jamal Greene, who started seven games at tackle last season, is back.

Angus Quigley has moved from running back to linebacker and "it looks like he's put his heart and soul into it," Mangino says.

The kicking and return games are in good shape. Punter Alonso Rojas and kicker Jacob Branstetter are back, as is long snapper Kayl Anderson.

## RECRUITING REPORT

The Jayhawks did a good job of capitalizing on another successful season by bringing in a group of players that fills needs at almost every position. They picked up two quarterbacks, one an athletic dual-threat prospect in **Christian Matthews** and one more of a true passer in **Jordan Webb**. One of the group's strengths is at defensive back, where Kansas loaded up on quality players such as **Prinz Kande, Dexter Linton** and **Darian Kelly.**

By promising the opportunity to carry the football rather than block, Mark Mangino got a four-star power back in **Toben Opurum**. The staff also lured four-star prospect **Bradley McDougald** away from Ohio State by offering him the opportunity to play running back over safety. Adding to the depth at running back is **Deshaun Sands**, a speedy back out of south Florida whose father, Tony, once held the single-season rushing record at Kansas.

The Jayhawks also signed a player with a big upside in wide receiver **Chris Omigie** and one with loads of potential off the edge in defensive end **Jacoby Thomas**. Omigie walks onto campus as a major mismatch in the red zone, while Thomas could become a monster as he grows into his frame.

*—Barton Simmons,* Rivals.com

## THE NEXT BIG THING *CALVIN RUBLES, CB*

Rubles has terrific size at 6-3 and 200 pounds and played like someone ready to take a position in the spring. He'll bring athleticism to a Kansas secondary that is going to be solid.

# 2 NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS

NDAMUKONG SUH » DT

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Florida Atlantic | |
| S.12 | Arkansas State | |
| S.19 | @VIRGINIA TECH | 30-35 |
| S.26 | Louisiana-Lafayette | |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **0.8** | **@MISSOURI** | **17-52** |
| The Cornhuskers were manhandled at home by the Tigers last season and have lost three straight in Columbia. This would be a statement victory. | | |
| 0.17 | Texas Tech | 31-37 (OT) |
| 0.24 | Iowa State | 35-7 |
| 0.31 | @BAYLOR | 32-20 |
| N.7 | Oklahoma | 28-62 |
| N.14 | @KANSAS | 45-35 |
| N.21 | Kansas State | 56-28 |
| N.27 | @COLORADO | 40-31 |

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» ALAMO BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE » B**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Give Zac Lee time to develop at quarterback.
- Ndamukong Suh will be an All-American.
- Alex Henery will emerge as one of the nation's top kickers.

Five of Nebraska's first seven games are at home. Not that the Cornhuskers need to win them all to keep the fans interested. This marriage is rock solid, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, Bo Pelini or Bill Callahan. The fans don't vote with their presence, as 297 straight sellouts at Memorial Stadium attest.

Of course, there was some initial excitement of Callahan and his West Coast offense too, until his first season disintegrated into a losing record and ended the program's 35-year bowl streak.

That would be the measuring-stick season for Pelini in his first year. Yes, the Cornhuskers wanted more. The state aches for the days of conference dominance, and although nobody expected a return to the top in 2008, a sign that things were moving in the right direction would ease tensions considerably.

And Pelini delivered. It wasn't the prettiest 9-4 mark in college football history. Fans had to watch their beloved Huskers get out-toughed by Virginia Tech one weekend and taken to the woodshed by Missouri the next.

But then good things started happening. In most years, beating Kansas at home wouldn't qualify as a watershed moment, but it helped turn the team around last season.

And Alex Henery will never have to buy a meal in the state after his school-record 57-yard field goal gave Nebraska a late lead over Colorado.

Then came the feel-good game of the year, the Gator Bowl triumph over a more athletic Clemson team. The Huskers built their program on seasons of nine victories or more. Rarely has one felt this good. The team played with passion and intelligence, and the fan base is convinced the Big Red is on the right track.

What that means for 2009 is more of the same, even with fewer established players.

In a conference of crazy offensive numbers, Nebraska improved greatly in 2009. It surrendered 349.8 total yards a game, compared to 476.8 from 2007, jumping from 12th to second in the Big 12.

The Huskers tripled their sack total and led the Big 12 in third-down defense. They got better as the season progressed, and nobody's stock jumped higher than tackle Ndamukong Suh's.

Not often does a lineman lead the team in sacks and interceptions. Suh had 7.5 of the former and two of the latter, which tied for the team lead. Both of those picks were returned for touchdowns. Throw in 19 tackles for loss, the third most in school history by a lineman, and you've got an All-America candidate. Pelini, an NFL assistant for nine years, knows next-level talent when he sees it.

"He'll probably play in the NFL seven or eight years and he still won't have reached his potential," Pelini

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

Zac Lee

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 71.00 | 2-1-0 | 50.0 | 5 | 0 | 2.5 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Roy Helu Jr. | 13 | 125 | 803 | 6.4 | 7 | 61.8 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mike McNeill | 12 | 32 | 442 | 13.8 | 6 | 36.8 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ndamukong Suh | 13 | 39 | 37 | 76 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ndamukong Suh | 13 | 7.5 | 67 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ndamukong Suh | 2 | 79 | 39.5 | 2 |
| Anthony West | 2 | 26 | 13.0 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-4
**Big 12:** 5-3
*(beat Clemson in the Gator Bowl, 26-21)*

**Coach:** Bo Pelini
2nd year (10-4)
**Career record:** 10-4
**Offensive coordinator:**
Shawn Watson (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Carl Pelini (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Memorial Stadium (81,067)
**Tickets:** 402-472-3111
**Site:** Lincoln
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.huskers.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 3 | Zac Lee (6-2, 210, Jr.) |
| | 7 | Latravis Washington (6-3, 225, Jr.) |
| FB | 35 | Jordan Makovicka (5-10, 170, So.) |
| | 48 | Tyler Legate (5-10, 220, So.) |
| RB | 10 | Roy Helu Jr. (6-0, 215, Jr.) |
| | 19 | Quentin Castille (6-1, 245, Jr.) |
| LOT | 65 | Mike Smith (6-6, 290, Jr.) |
| | 78 | Marcel Jones (6-7, 310, So.) |
| LOG | 68 | Keith Williams (6-5, 320, Sr.) |
| | 58 | Mike Caputo (6-1, 275, So.) |
| C | 67 | Jacob Hickman (6-4, 290, Sr.) |
| | 59 | Brian Thorson (6-3, 280, Fr.) |
| ROG | 73 | D.J. Jones (6-5, 305, Jr.) |
| | 79 | Brandon Thompson (6-6, 295, Fr.) |
| ROT | 72 | Jaivorio Burkes (6-5, 325, Jr.) |
| | 74 | Ricky Henry (6-4, 305, Jr.) |
| TE | 44 | Mike McNeill (6-4, 240, Jr.) |
| | 25 | Kyler Reed (6-3, 220, Fr.) |
| WR | 18 | Menelik Holt (6-4, 220, Sr.) |
| | 1 | Chris Brooks (6-2, 210, Sr.) |
| WR | 24 | Niles Paul (6-1, 210, Jr.) |
| | 8 | Will Henry (6-5, 220, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 99 | Barry Turner (6-3, 265, Sr.) |
| | 92 | Tyrone Fahie (6-3, 255, Jr.) |
| LDT | 93 | Ndamukong Suh (6-4, 300, Sr.) |
| | 55 | Baker Steinkuhler (6-6, 290, Fr.) |
| RDT | 94 | Jared Crick (6-6, 280, So.) |
| | 90 | Terrence Moore (6-3, 275, So.) |
| RDE | 95 | Pierre Allen (6-5, 265, Jr.) |
| | 47 | William Yancy (6-4, 245, So.) |
| SLB | 36 | Mathew May (6-1, 195, So.) |
| | 9 | Austin Stafford (6-2, 205, So.) |
| MLB | 54 | Colton Koehler (6-1, 230, Sr.) |
| | 51 | Will Compton (6-2, 230, Fr.) |
| WLB | 52 | Phillip Dillard (6-1, 240, Sr.) |
| | 7 | Latravis Washington (6-3, 225, Jr.) |
| LCB | 5 | Anthony West (6-0, 200, Jr.) |
| | 15 | Alfonzo Dennard (5-10, 190, So.) |
| RCB | 21 | Prince Amukamara (6-1, 195, Jr.) |
| | 14 | Anthony Blue (5-10, 180, So.) |
| FS | 3 | Rickey Thenarse (6-0, 195, Sr.) |
| | 33 | Matt O'Hanlon (5-11, 195, Sr.) |
| SS | 4 | Larry Asante (6-1, 210, Sr.) |
| | 2 | Major Culbert (6-0, 205, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 90 | Alex Henery (6-2, 175, Jr.) |
| P | 90 | Alex Henery (6-2, 175, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | NEBRASKA | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 460 | 371 |
| Points Per Game | 35.4 | 28.5 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 295 | 228 |
| Rushing | 113 | 83 |
| Passing | 171 | 117 |
| Penalty | 11 | 28 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2207 | 1514 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2509 | 1895 |
| Yards lost rushing | 302 | 381 |
| Rushing Attempts | 486 | 418 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.5 | 3.6 |
| Average Per Game | 169.8 | 116.5 |
| TDs Rushing | 27 | 24 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 3653 | 3034 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 433-295-11 | 385-222-12 |
| Average Per Pass | 8.4 | 7.9 |
| Average Per Catch | 12.4 | 13.7 |
| Average Per Game | 281.0 | 233.4 |
| TDs Passing | 27 | 19 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5860 | 4548 |
| Total Plays | 919 | 803 |
| Average Per Play | 6.4 | 5.7 |
| Average Per Game | 450.8 | 349.8 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 57-1245 | 57-1364 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 31-376 | 22-208 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 12-202 | 11-249 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | NEBRASKA | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 21.8 | 23.9 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 12.1 | 9.5 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 16.8 | 22.6 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 31-17 | 17-5 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 94-800 | 64-477 |
| Average Per Game | 61.5 | 36.7 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 48-1850 | 66-2544 |
| Average Per Punt | 38.5 | 38.5 |
| Net punt average | 32.1 | 31.6 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 34:01 | 25:59 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 84/178 | 57/169 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 47% | 34% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 5/13 | 10/21 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 38% | 48% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 35-269 | 21-128 |
| MISC YARDS | 9 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 58 | 49 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 18-21 | 10-17 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 56-57 | 45-49 |
| ATTENDANCE | 680564 | 235899 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 8/85070 | 4/58975 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/67282 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nebraska | 98 | 126 | 81 | 55 | 0 | 460 |
| Opponent | 113 | 107 | 93 | 52 | 6 | 371 |

says. "He's 21 years old, and he's not even close to his potential yet."

A pair of sophomores, Jared Crick and Terrence Moore, figure to battle for the other tackle spot with Baker Steinkuhler.

The Huskers should be good up front with the return of starting end Pierre Allen and a healthy Barry Turner, who missed all but two games with a broken leg last season. A Freshman All-American in 2005, Turner has 11.5 career sacks.

There's not much experience at linebacker, but Blake Lawrence, Colton Koehler and Mathew May played significant roles over the season's final stretch when Nebraska won six of seven games. Phillip Dillard is the only returning starter, and he was limited to nine contests last season because of injury.

Eight players with at least one career start return in the secondary. The most experienced is senior strong safety Larry Asante, who has started 22 straight games. At free safety, Matt O'Hanlon came on strong last year, as did Rickey Thenarse. Corner Anthony West, who collected two interceptions in '08, is back, along with Prince Amukamara, who was the top reserve in the nickel and dime packages.

Questions abound on offense, starting at quarterback. Record-setting Joe Ganz has moved on and junior Zac Lee, who brings a similar skill set, steps in.

Lee has been a little-used reserve and a scout-team quarterback in the past. Now he has the keys to the offense and is ready to take a spin.

"We have a great offense," Lee says. "Just use it and everything will work out."

There is offensive talent around him. The left side of the line returns intact with tackle Mike Smith and guard Keith Williams. Center Jacob Hickman is also back. On the right side, guard D.J. Jones and tackle Jaivorio Burkes are ready to step up.

By the end of last season, Roy Helu Jr. and Quintin Castille were the team's I-backs. Helu led the Huskers with 803 yards and his 6.4 yard-per-carry average was the best by a Nebraska back in seven years. Castille went for a season-high 125 yards against Clemson.

Expectations are high for Nebraska, but it may take a while for the offense to find its legs. Suh and the defense will have the carry the load, at least early on.

## RECRUITING REPORT

Nebraska's class does not lack for accolades or production. It is a proven group on the high school level that has a chance to make a big impact in college as well.

Leading the way is dual-threat **Cody Green,** a big, physically gifted quarterback with great athleticism. After missing most of his junior season because of injury, he rushed for more than 1,500 yards and threw for more than 3,000 as a senior.

**Rex Burkhead** rushed for more than 1,700 yards while also picking up close to 600 receiving and made a big impact on special teams. His athleticism and versatility could help Nebraska in a lot of capacities.

Linebacker **Chris Williams** had similar production on defense and will be joined by a monster defensive end in **Jason Ankrah** out of Maryland.

*–Barton Simmons, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *MATHEW MAY, LB*

The sophomore impressed in the spring and has become a strong candidate to start at strongside linebacker. He's a walk-on from Imperial, Neb., the kind of story Husker fans love.

# 3 MISSOURI TIGERS

It may be unfair to throw this on Missouri, but what the heck. It's time to determine whether the Tigers have a legitimate college football program or just enjoyed a nice run.

And what a run it's been. Starting with quarterback Brad Smith and continuing with his successor, Chase Daniel, the past six seasons produced five bowl games, three consensus All-America selections and two straight Big 12 North championships.

Home attendance has soared and interest in the team is as great as any time since the glory days of the 1960s.

But the great programs reload. They replace stars with stars, and the Tigers have lost plenty of star power in guys like Daniel, wide receiver Jeremy Maclin and tight end Chase Coffman.

Coach Gary Pinkel likes this team, as does top returning linebacker Sean Weatherspoon. But they know it must go its own way.

"We lost 22 seniors," Weatherspoon says. "We have two new coordinators. It's just a different team. We have to make our own identity. As we keep going, we'll figure it out."

All indications show the Tigers will be led by their defense—a departure from a program that averaged 42.2 points per game in 2008. Daniel's completion percentage (72.9) was the third best in NCAA history.

Defense dominated the spring game. Although only four starters return, Weatherspoon is a solid foundation. In retrospect, his junior campaign seems even more amazing than it did at the end of the season.

Weatherspoon's 155 tackles are 50 more than the next Missouri player. He led the Tigers in tackles for loss and tied for the team lead in interceptions, earning an All-Big 12 spot in the process.

Even though the Tigers are replacing three starters both on the line and secondary, there doesn't seem to be much concern about a drop-off at either.

Middle linebacker Luke Lambert joins Weatherspoon as a starter, and the leader at the strongside position is junior Andrew Gachkar, a hard hitter on special teams throughout his career.

Junior Carl Gettis returns at cornerback, and Missouri needs a repeat of his strong freshman season. Kevin Rutland had an excellent spring and looks to have won the other corner spot.

On offense, all eyes are on quarterback. The job belongs to Blaine Gabbert, who backed up Daniel last season and appeared in five games. At 6-5, Gabbert is at least five inches taller than Daniel and has a stronger arm. But Daniel's leadership and knowledge of the game is what made him a Heisman finalist as a junior.

Gabbert had a rough spring game but was solid in other spring scrimmages.

Look for running back Derrick Washington to post another big season. He rushed for 1,036 yards and 17 touchdowns in 2008, and that was in a passing offense. The Tigers figure to be more balanced this time.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***JACQUIES SMITH, DE***

Smith is 6-4 and 240 pounds but is part of a group of defensive linemen that have impressive team speed.

SEAN WEATHERSPOON ▷ LB

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 10-4
**Big 12:** 5-3
*(beat Northwestern in the Alamo Bowl, 30-23)*

**Coach:** Gary Pinkel
9th year (59-40)
**Career record:** 132-77-1
**Offensive coordinator:**
David Yost (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Dave Steckel (1st year)

**Stadium:** Memorial Stadium/Faurot Field (68,349)
**Tickets:** 800-CAT-PAWS
**Site:** Columbia
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.mutigers.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.5** | **@ILLINOIS*** | **52-42** |
| Victories in the opening game have set the tone for successful Missouri seasons. The Tigers are 4-0 in the neutral-site opener during the Gary Pinkel regime. | | |
| **S.12** | Bowling Green | |
| **S.19** | Furman | |
| **S.25** | @NEVADA | 69-17 |
| **O.8** | Nebraska | 52-17 |
| **O.17** | @OKLAHOMA STATE | 23-28 |
| **O.24** | Texas | 31-56 |
| **O.31** | @COLORADO | 58-0 |
| **N.7** | Baylor | 31-28 |
| **N.14** | @KANSAS STATE | 41-24 |
| **N.21** | Iowa State | 52-20 |
| **N.28** | @KANSAS** | 37-40 |

** at St. Louis, MO*
*** at Kansas City, MO*

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» INSIGHT BOWL
MIDDLE TIER BOWL

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE B

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Offensive line is a great place not to have many questions.
- Linebacker Sean Weatherspoon plays all over the field.
- An unproven quarterback tempers expectations.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 11 | Blaine Gabbert (6-5, 235, So.) |
| RB | 24 | Derrick Washington (5-11, 225, Jr.) |
| LOT | 72 | Elvis Fisher (6-5, 300, So.) |
| LOG | 66 | Austin Wuebbels (6-4, 300, So.) |
| C | 62 | Tim Barnes (6-4, 305, Jr.) |
| ROG | 78 | Kurtis Gregory (6-5, 305, Sr.) |
| ROT | 77 | Dan Hoch (6-7, 315, So.) |
| TE | 87 | Andrew Jones (6-5, 245, So.) |
| WR | 16 | Brandon Gerau (6-0, 175, So.) |
| WR | 29 | Jerrell Jackson (6-1, 190, So.) |
| WR | 8 | Wes Kemp (6-4, 225, So.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 3 | Jacquies Smith (6-4, 240, So.) |
| LDT | 93 | Terrell Resonno (6-6, 295, So.) |
| RDT | 96 | Jaron Baston (6-1, 305, Sr.) |
| RDE | 85 | Aldon Smith (6-5, 245, Fr.) |
| SLB | 6 | Andrew Gachkar (6-3, 230, Jr.) |
| MLB | 33 | Luke Lambert (6-3, 235, Jr.) |
| WLB | 12 | Sean Weatherspoon (6-2, 245, Sr.) |
| LCB | 20 | Kevin Rutland (6-0, 195, Jr.) |
| RCB | 19 | Carl Gettis (5-11, 200, Jr.) |
| FS | 13 | Kenji Jackson (5-10, 195, So.) |
| SS | 4 | Hardy Ricks (6-0, 200, Sr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 91 | Tanner Mills (6-2, 200, Sr.) |
| P | 36 | Jake Harry (6-1, 195, Sr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1**
**Sheldon Richardson**
*DT, 6-4, 292*
Despite his size, Richardson is a great athlete who has been timed in the 4.7-second range in the 40-yard dash.

**2**
**Joshua Tatum**
*LB, 6-0, 240*
Tatum will provide an immediate physical presence in the linebacking corps.

**3**
**Kendial Lawrence**
*RB, 5-9, 177*
With more than 2,600 rushing yards and 43 touchdowns to his credit as a senior, Lawrence is a proven producer.

**4**
**Brayden Burnett**
*DE, 6-3, 240*
There are players who look more imposing, but few make as many plays as Burnett.

**5**
**T.J. Moe**
*ATH, 6-0, 185*
Moe is a unique prospect; he played quarterback in high school but has the ability to play just about anywhere on the field.

G. NEWMAN LOWRANCE / GETTY IMAGES

# COLORADO BUFFALOES 4

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Colorado State | 38-17 |
| S.11 | @TOLEDO | |
| S.19 | Wyoming | |
| 0.1 | @WEST VIRGINIA | 17-14 (OT) |
| 0.10 | @TEXAS | 14-38 |
| 0.17 | Kansas | 14-30 |
| 0.24 | @KANSAS STATE | 14-13 |
| 0.31 | Missouri | 0-58 |
| N.7 | Texas A&M | 17-24 |
| N.14 | @IOWA STATE | 28-24 |
| N.19 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | 17-30 |
| N.27 | Nebraska | 31-40 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

The Jayhawks have won three straight in this series, and this should be the first opportunity to prove the Buffaloes can contend for the division.

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» TEXAS BOWL

LOWER TIER BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE C**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» Better play from the quarterback spot is needed.
» Defensive line needs to come together.
» Defense's strength should be in the back seven and speed positions.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 7 | Cody Hawkins (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| FB | 41 | Jake Behrens (6-0, 230, Sr.) |
| RB | 2 | Darrell Scott (6-1, 200, So.) |
| LOT | 78 | Nate Solder (6-9, 295, Jr.) |
| LOG | 66 | Blake Behrens (6-3, 290, So.) |
| C | 56 | Keenan Stevens (6-2, 295, Jr.) |
| ROG | 73 | Ryan Miller (6-8, 310, So.) |
| ROT | 71 | Matthew Bahr (6-4, 275, So.) |
| TE | 87 | Riar Geer (6-4, 250, Sr.) |
| WR | 1 | Josh Smith (6-0, 190, Jr.) |
| WR | 21 | Scotty McKnight (5-11, 180, Jr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 93 | Conrad Obi (6-3, 265, So.) |
| LDT | 50 | Curtis Cunningham (6-1, 270, So.) |
| RDT | 97 | Taj Kaynor (6-5, 265, Sr.) |
| RDE | 90 | Marquez Herrod (6-2, 265, Jr.) |
| SLB | 45 | Jeff Smart (6-0, 220, Sr.) |
| MLB | 54 | Marcus Burton (6-0, 260, Jr.) |
| WLB | 47 | Shaun Mohler (6-3, 220, Sr.) |
| LCB | 3 | Jimmy Smith (6-2, 195, Jr.) |
| RCB | 29 | Cha'pelle Brown (5-7, 180, Sr.) |
| FS | 46 | Anthony Perkins (5-10, 195, So.) |
| SS | 12 | Patrick Mahnke (6-1, 200, So.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PK | 13 | Aric Goodman (5-10, 185, Jr.) |
| P | 14 | Matt DiLallo (6-1, 195, Sr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7
**Big 12:** 2-6

**Coach:** Dan Hawkins
4th year (13-24)
**Career record:** 66-35 (FBS)
**Offensive coordinator:**
Mark Helfrich (4th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Ron Collins (4th year)

**Stadium:** Folsom Field (53,750)
**Tickets:** 800-87-BUFFS
**Site:** Boulder
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.cubuffs.com

CODY HAWKINS » QB

FRED BARNES FOR SN

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

| | |
|---|---|
| '04 | 7 |
| '05 | 7 |
| '06 | 2 |
| '07 | 6 |
| '08 | 5 |

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Nick Kasa**
*DE, 6-7, 245*
Kasa is the jewel of the Buffs' class. With his speed and length off the edge, he is one of the top signees in the Big 12.

**2 — Jack Harris**
*OT, 6-6, 270*
With long arms and a big frame, Harris will grow into a dominating tackle with the right physical development.

**3 — Edward Nuckols**
*DT, 6-2, 290*
Though he will be a defensive tackle in college, Nuckols showed off his athleticism in high school by rushing for 19 touchdowns.

**4 — Andre Simmons**
*WR, 6-3, 201*
One of the top junior-college wideouts in the nation, Simmons will be a big target as a possession receiver.

**5 — Nate Bonsu**
*DT, 6-2, 265*
A product of one of the top high school programs in Texas, Bonsu chose Colorado over a slew of national offers.

After beating West Virginia in the third game of 2008, the possibilities seemed endless for Colorado.

But there would be only two more triumphs in a disappointing 5-7 year, which prompted a bold statement from coach Dan Hawkins at the team's senior awards banquet in December: "Ten wins and no excuses."

At Boise State, where Hawkins went 53-11 in five seasons, that was no problem. At Colorado, where he's 13-24 in three years with only one bowl appearance, it has been tougher.

The 2008 campaign was difficult because of injuries. The Buffaloes finished the year without their leading rusher, two starters in the secondary and with a rebuilt offensive line.

Colorado suffered 11 season-ending injuries, with nine of them requiring surgery.

Hawkins has even gone as far as to change the role of his son, Cody, who has started at quarterback over the past two seasons. Dad threw open the QB job after Hawkins didn't show improvement. Cody and Tyler Hansen are now battling for the position.

Completion percentage has been a sticking point for Hawkins. He's at 56.7 percent for his career in a conference where 60 percent is the norm.

Hansen stepped in for Hawkins last season against Kansas State and led Colorado to a victory. He's a better athlete and more of a running threat, and there's a possibility Hansen and Hawkins will rotate in 2009.

Colorado also needs to get more from its running backs. A year earlier, the Buffaloes pulled off a recruiting coup by beating Texas for Darrell Scott. But Scott stayed home all summer to complete coursework and gain eligibility and his lack of conditioning led to a series of early injuries. He finished with 343 yards and one of the team's 10 rushing touchdowns.

Another freshman, Rodney Stewart, became the breakout player. He finished as Colorado's leading rusher with 622 yards but broke his leg at Texas A&M and missed the final three games.

Scotty McKnight is a top-notch wide receiver who missed some of spring ball with partially torn triceps.

Josh Smith, whose 1,987 all-purpose yards last year were the second most in school history, is the only other established wideout. He and McKnight will have to show the way for an inexperienced group.

The Buffaloes will play a 3-4 scheme at times on defense to take advantage of their strength in the back seven. At linebacker, Jeff Smart, the team's top tackler last year, returns, along with Shaun Mohler. Marcus Burton becomes the middle linebacker.

Up front, Marquez Herrod becomes the starting defensive end, but he's unproven. Tackle Curtis Cunningham is the only lineman who was on the field for at least 100 snaps last season.

Is there enough here for 10 victories? Some of it would be luck. But we know this: There won't be any excuses.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***NICK KASA, DE***

Recent recruiting emphasis at Colorado was placed on defensive linemen, and the most highly regarded prospect is the 6-7 Kasa.

# 5 KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

How about this for a plot? Retired legendary coach enters a time machine in 2005 and emerges after the 2008 season, returning to the same desk he occupied for 17 seasons.

Call it "The Bill Snyder Story." And Kansas State is hoping for an action-adventure with a happy ending.

A rough beginning seems more likely.

Snyder returns to breathe new life into the program he built upon his first arrival in 1989. He worked wonders back then, turning a moribund program into a champion. Ten years into his tenure, the Wildcats were an overtime loss away from playing in their first national championship game.

A new challenge awaits, and this one is just as daunting. The Wildcats regressed in three years under Ron Prince, who reached a bowl game in his first season, then saw Kansas State freefall in the next two seasons with no bowl appearances and just five conference victories.

Re-enter Snyder and another rebuilding task.

The first order of business is to find Josh Freeman's replacement at quarterback. Freeman was a three-year starter, and his longtime friend Carson Coffman figures to step in. Coffman, a junior, was an excellent high school quarterback who led his team to two state championships. And he has the football genes, although Carson didn't go the tight-end route like his father Paul (who spent 11 years in the NFL with the Packers and Chiefs) and brother Chase, an All-American at Missouri and third-round pick of Cincinnati in the 2009 draft.

Snyder describes his offense as "broad-based," but it will include the quarterback running. A pair of redshirt freshmen, Collin Klein and Joseph Cassanavoid, are also in the quarterback mix.

The primary target will be a small but dynamic wide receiver in Brandon Banks. He's 5-7, but came on strong in his first season out of junior college. Banks caught 67 passes, while his 15.7 yards per reception were second in the Big 12 last year. He also finished second in the league with 27.7 yards per kickoff return.

"You can do a number of things with someone that has that kind of quickness and speed," Snyder says.

One player looking for a second life in the new regime is running back Keithen Valentine. He had a big spring game after transferring from Mississippi Delta Community College, but finished the '08 season with just 129 yards. Logan Dold is a powerful back who had a solid freshman campaign (336 yards), although there is some speculation he could be moved to safety.

One of the team's biggest strengths last season was the play of defensive end Brandon Harold, who led the Wildcats with 10.5 tackles for loss just a year out of high school.

The linebackers are led by returning starters Ulla Pomele and Alex Hrebec, and John Houlik had an impressive spring. Cornerback-Joshua Moore, who led the Big 12 in pass breakups last season, is back as well.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

**CARLTON CALLENDAR, CB**

Plenty of new faces will get chances, but look for this freshman from Miami to get an early shot at starting.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7
**Big 12:** 2-6

**Coach:** Bill Snyder
1st year, but coached Kansas State from 1989-2005
**Career record:** 136-68-1
**Offensive coordinator:** Andy Ludwig (1st year)
**Defensive coordinators:** Vic Koenning (1st year)
Chris Cosh (1st year)

**Stadium:** Bill Snyder Family Stadium (50,000)
**Tickets:** 800-221-CATS
**Site:** Manhattan, Kansas
**Official athletic Web site:** www.kstatesports.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Massachusetts | |
| S.12 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE | 45-37 |
| S.26 | Tennessee Tech | |
| 0.3 | @IOWA STATE* | 38-30 |
| 0.10 | @TEXAS TECH | 28-58 |
| 0.17 | Texas A&M | 44-30 |
| 0.24 | Colorado | 13-14 |
| 0.31 | @OKLAHOMA | 35-58 |
| N.7 | Kansas | 21-52 |
| N.14 | Missouri | 24-41 |
| N.21 | @NEBRASKA | 28-56 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.19 @UCLA**

A high-profile game for the Wildcats will let them know where they stand before heading into Big 12 play two weeks later.

** at Kansas City, MO*

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE D

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Starting over in many ways.
- Brandon Harold is a keeper at defensive end.
- This team will be better organized than previous Wildcat squads.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 14 | Carson Coffman (6-3, 208, Jr.) |
| RB | 25 | Keithen Valentine (5-8, 193, Sr.) |
| LOT | 64 | Nick Stringer (6-6, 271, Sr.) |
| LOG | 76 | Brock Unruh (6-6, 288, Sr.) |
| C | 59 | Zach Kendall (6-3, 287, Jr.) |
| ROG | 74 | Wade Weibert (6-4, 287, Jr.) |
| ROT | 67 | Kenneth Mayfield (6-4, 311, Jr.) |
| TE | 85 | Jeron Mastrud (6-6, 253, Sr.) |
| WR | 83 | Brandon Banks (5-7, 142, Sr.) |
| WR | 89 | Aubrey Quarles (5-11, 195, Sr.) |
| WR | 81 | Attrail Snipes (6-1, 180, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 99 | Brandon Harold (6-6, 264, So.) |
| NT | 77 | Daniel Calvin (6-3, 310, Sr.) |
| RDE | 90 | Eric Childs (6-3, 238, Sr.) |
| LOLB | 40 | Antonio Felder (6-2, 253, Jr.) |
| LILB | 47 | Alex Hrebec (5-11, 238, So.) |
| RILB | 51 | Ulla Pomele (6-1, 228, Sr.) |
| ROLB | 50 | Hansen Sekona (6-0, 230, Sr.) |
| LCB | 4 | Joshua Moore (5-11, 184, Jr.) |
| RCB | 6 | Blair Irvin (6-0, 180, Sr.) |
| FS | 2 | Tysyn Hartman (6-3, 204, So.) |
| SS | 20 | Courtney Herndon (6-0, 211, Sr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 19 | Josh Cherry (6-1, 183, Jr.) |
| P | 4 | DJ Fulhage (5-9, 180, Jr.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** — **Timothy Flanders** *ATH, 5-9, 191* — Flanders was a late steal from Tulsa and Oklahoma State, and he gives the Wildcats an immediate home-run threat.

**2** — **Joseph Bonugli** *S, 5-11, 187* — Bonugli is a hard-hitting safety with great instincts. He was a tackling machine in high school.

**3** — **Tramaine Thompson** *RB, 5-8, 160* — A one-time Oregon State commitment, Thompson will be a slot receiver and return man for Kansas State.

**4** — **Torell Miller** *S, 6-3, 187* — One of the real sleeper signees in the Big 12, Miller has cornerback cover skills despite his size.

**5** — **Thomas Ferguson** *DB, 6-1, 205* — Another defensive back with great size, Ferguson can play either cornerback or safety.

PETER AIKEN / GETTY IMAGES

# IOWA STATE CYCLONES 6

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | North Dakota State | |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| S.12 | Iowa | 5-17 |

This is one of the best off-the-radar rivalries going, and the Cyclones tend to find a way to win these contests at home.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.19 | @KENT STATE | 48-28 |
| S.26 | Army | |
| O.3 | Kansas State* | 30-38 |
| O.10 | @KANSAS | 33-35 |
| O.17 | Baylor | 10-38 |
| O.24 | @NEBRASKA | 7-35 |
| O.31 | @TEXAS A&M | 35-49 |
| N.7 | Oklahoma State | 17-59 |
| N.14 | Colorado | 24-28 |
| N.21 | @MISSOURI | 20-52 |

** at Kansas City, MO*

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE D

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Not just a new coaching staff, but also a new offense will make the transition difficult.
- Defense has some nice pieces and will be improved.
- More victories than 2008 (2) would be a great sign.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 4 | Austen Arnaud (6-3, 222, Jr.) |
| RB | 33 | Alexander Robinson (5-10, 182, Jr.) |
| LOT | 58 | Hayworth Hicks (6-3, 330, Jr.) |
| LOG | 73 | Reggie Stephens (6-4, 313, Sr.) |
| C | 77 | Alex Alvarez (6-2, 291, Jr.) |
| ROG | 63 | Ben Lamaak (6-5, 315, Jr.) |
| ROT | 51 | Scott Haughton (6-4, 335, So.) |
| TE | 88 | Collin Franklin (6-6, 247, Jr.) |
| WR | 82 | Marquis Hamilton (6-4, 220, Sr.) |
| WR | 2 | Sedrick Johnson (6-4, 188, So.) |
| WR | 80 | Darius Darks (6-0, 167, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 29 | Rashawn Parker (6-0, 246, Sr.) |
| LDT | 97 | Stephen Ruempolhamer (6-3, 285, So.) |
| RDT | 62 | Nate Frere (6-1, 291, Sr.) |
| RDE | 55 | Christopher Lyle (6-3, 249, Sr.) |
| SLB | 16 | Josh Raven (5-11, 216, Sr.) |
| MLB | 54 | Jesse Smith (6-0, 231, Sr.) |
| WLB | 43 | Fred Garrin (6-1, 221, Sr.) |
| LCB | 23 | Leonard Johnson (5-10, 179, So.) |
| RCB | 32 | Ter'ran Benton (6-0, 185, So.) |
| FS | 2 | James Smith (5-9, 189, Sr.) |
| SS | 87 | Alex Sandvig (6-1, 179, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PK | 21 | Grant Mahoney (6-1, 151, So.) |
| P | 13 | Mike Brandtner (6-1, 206, Sr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 2-10
**Big 12:** 0-8

**Coach:** Paul Rhoads
1st year
**Offensive coordinator:**
Tom Herman (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Wally Burnham (1st year)

**Stadium:** Jack Trice Stadium (55,000)
**Tickets:** 515-294-1816
**Site:** Ames
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.cyclones.com

LEONARD JOHNSON » CB

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

| | |
|---|---|
| '04 | 7 |
| '05 | 7 |
| '06 | 4 |
| '07 | 3 |
| '08 | 2 |

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

It may have been the most unusual coaching departure in recent memory.

After going winless in Big 12 play and finishing 2-10 in his second season, Gene Chizik was starting to hear it from the Iowa State fan base. Could he get it done in Ames?

But after the 2008 campaign, the Cyclone faithful got their answer. Chizik, 5-19 in two seasons, wouldn't be around to try. Auburn called, he bolted and Iowa State was left to start over.

Enter Paul Rhoads.

"We will be passionate," Rhoads says. "We will bring pride back to the Cyclone nation."

It was something of a coaching trade, with Rhoads at Auburn in 2008 after spending the previous eight years as the University of Pittsburgh's defensive coordinator.

But it was Rhoads' experience before Pittsburgh that made him an attractive candidate. He spent five years on Iowa State's staff under ex-head coach Dan McCarney.

Defense is Rhoads' specialty, which is good for the Cyclones. Iowa State surrendered averages of 452.8 yards and 35.8 points per game last year. The pass defense was loose, with opponents completing 67.4 percent of their passes and throwing for nearly three touchdowns per game.

As much attention as the defense needs, the buzz around Iowa State is the new spread offense. "If you can't beat them, join them," seems to be the idea here with the no-huddle shotgun formation under coordinator Tom Herman.

The advantage for Iowa State is an experienced quarterback who seems comfortable in the system. Austen Arnaud completed 247 passes for 2,792 yards and 15 touchdowns last season, his first as a starter.

Iowa State also appears to have the receiving corps to make the new attack work. Second-year wideouts Sedrick Johnson, Lonzie Range and Darius Darks had good spring games, while seniors Marquis Hamilton and Houston Jones combined for 58 catches in '08.

Leading rusher Alexander Robinson is back, and Florida transfer Bo Williams will also be in the mix.

The biggest adjustment to the spread will come on the offensive line. But the Cyclones have plenty of experience here, with some players forced onto the field earlier because of injuries.

Iowa State's defensive players may help their counterparts when it comes to the spread, as they see it often in the Big 12.

End Rashawn Parker and nose tackle Nate Frere are back for their senior seasons, while Jesse Smith and Fred Garrin, the team's respective second- and third-leading tacklers last year, return at linebacker.

The secondary could be a strength. Free safety James Smith, who topped the team in tackles in 2008, is among seven players with starting experience.

A turnaround won't happen overnight, but at least the Cyclones have a coach who knows the territory.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Darius Reynolds**
*ATH, 6-3, 190*
Though he played quarterback in junior college, Reynolds could line up at a number of positions for the Cyclones.

**2 — Joshua Bellamy**
*WR, 6-1, 200*
A speedy and gifted wide receiver, Bellamy signed with the Cyclones out of junior college.

**3 — Aaron Moore**
*C, 6-5, 255*
One of the top centers in the country, Moore has the athleticism of a tight end.

**4 — Princeton Jackson**
*LB, 6-1, 210*
Jackson, also a star baseball player, is a hard hitter with a great nose for the ball.

**5 — Donnie Jennert**
*WR, 6-6, 192*
At 6-6 and with soft hands, there are few wide receivers who present the mismatch of Jennert.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***LEONARD JOHNSON, CB***

Johnson set an NCAA record for kickoff-return yards in a game (319) against Oklahoma State last year, and opened eyes with his hard-hitting play at cornerback this spring.

BIG 12 SOUTH PRESEASON RANK

# 1 TEXAS LONGHORNS

TOP 25 PICK

JORDAN SHIPLEY ▸ WR

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Louisiana-Monroe | |
| S.12 | @WYOMING | |
| S.19 | Texas Tech | 33-39 |
| S.26 | UTEP | 42-13 |
| 0.10 | Colorado | 38-14 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| 0.17 | Oklahoma* | 45-35 |
| When is this not the biggest game? Texas has won three of the last four matchups but has only one Big 12 title game appearance in that span. | | |
| 0.24 | @MISSOURI | 56-31 |
| 0.31 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | 28-24 |
| N.7 | UCF | |
| N.14 | @BAYLOR | 45-21 |
| N.21 | Kansas | 35-7 |
| N.26 | @TEXAS A&M | 49-9 |

** at Dallas, TX*

**BOWL PROJECTION** BCS BOWL

» BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ A**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- McCoy should be a Heisman finalist if not the winner.
- Will the O-line and backs come through?
- The pass defense will be much improved.

The story of Texas' spring game? Quarterback Colt McCoy completed only 11 passes in 24 tries.

Stop the press. These bricks came from the most accurate passer for a season in NCAA history (76.7 perecent).

He's the guy who pulled a dramatic victory over Ohio State from sure defeat in the Fiesta Bowl by marching the Longhorns 76 yards, as he completed seven of 10 passes, including the 26-yard touchdown pass with 16 seconds remaining.

He didn't win the Heisman but did capture the Walter Camp Award and was a first-team All-America on the Football Writers Association of America ballot, despite playing in the same division as Heisman winner Sam Bradford of Oklahoma. Oh, and his Longhorns defeated Bradford and the Sooners in 2008.

So, yeah, it's a story when McCoy goes 11-for-24.

But know that it was spring weather in Texas. The wind was blowing around 20 miles per hour. And Texas wide receivers dropped four balls.

"*That* was the cause for concern," Longhorns coach Mack Brown says.

Not McCoy, who goes into this season as a solid Heisman candidate. Yes, the previous two Heisman winners return. But McCoy has been as effective as Bradford and Tim Tebow, and didn't have a running game to work with.

The Texas offense will be solid again, but the defense is another story. Mother Nature wasn't the only reason McCoy had a tough spring game. The best player on the field that afternoon was safety Earl Thomas, who returned an interception for a touchdown.

That was a big sign. Texas wasn't a good turnover team in 2008. It finished last in the Big 12 and 113th nationally with just six interceptions.

"Turnovers are something we've needed and talked about," Brown says. "We dropped enough interceptions last year and it was a true emphasis in the spring."

There's talent in the secondary with Blake Gideon and Thomas at safeties and Aaron Williams and Chykie Brown at the corners. Now, they have to become the good hands people.

The Longhorns lost three starting defensive linemen (including All-America end Brian Orakpo) and two linebackers, but Texas won't drop off.

End Sergio Kindle figures to become the program's next defensive impact player. He's a speed rusher who had 10 sacks last season, and defensive coordinator Will Muschamp says Kindle will line up where the senior wants.

JED JACOBSOHN / GETTY IMAGES

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

| Colt McCoy | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 13 | 136 | 561 | 4.1 | 11 | 43.2 | 296.8 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colt McCoy | 13 | 136 | 561 | 4.1 | 11 | 43.2 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jordan Shipley | 13 | 89 | 1060 | 11.9 | 11 | 81.5 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Roddrick Muckelroy | 13 | 71 | 41 | 112 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sergio Kindle | 13 | 10 | 71 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Earl Thomas | 2 | 0 | .0 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 12-1
**BIG 12:** 7-1
*(beat Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl, 24-21)*

**Coach:** Mack Brown
12th year (115-26)
**Career record:** 201-100-1
**Offensive coordinator:**
Greg Davis (12th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Will Muschamp (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium (94,113)
**Tickets:** 800-982-BEVO
**Site:** Austin
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.texassports.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 12 | Colt McCoy (6-3, 210, Sr.) |
| | 7 | John Chiles (6-2, 215, Jr.) |
| FB | 24 | Antwan Cobb (6-0, 215, Jr.) |
| | 46 | Aaron Smith (6-2, 220, So.) |
| RB | 31 | Cody Johnson (5-11, 255, So.) |
| | 2 | Vondrell McGee (5-10, 205, Jr.) |
| LOT | 74 | Adam Ulatoski (6-8, 302, Sr.) |
| | 56 | Tray Allen (6-5, 310, Jr.) |
| LOG | 52 | Charlie Tanner (6-4, 305, Sr.) |
| | 75 | Steve Moore (6-5, 300, Jr.) |
| C | 71 | Chris Hall (6-4, 300, Sr.) |
| | 78 | David Snow (6-4, 300, So.) |
| ROG | 63 | Michael Huey (6-5, 315, Jr.) |
| | 54 | Mark Buchanan (6-6, 295, Fr.) |
| ROT | 64 | Kyle Hix (6-7, 320, Jr.) |
| | 72 | Britt Mitchell (6-5, 300, Jr.) |
| TE | 19 | Blaine Irby (6-3, 235, Jr.) |
| | 13 | Ahmard Howard (6-4, 248, So.) |
| WR | 8 | Jordan Shipley (6-0, 190, Sr.) |
| | 5 | Brandon Collins (6-0, 170, Jr.) |
| WR | 9 | Malcolm Williams (6-3, 218, So.) |
| | 11 | James Kirkendoll (5-11, 175, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 2 | Sergio Kindle (6-4, 239, Sr.) |
| | 43 | Dravannti Johnson (6-2, 220, Fr.) |
| LDT | 33 | Lamarr Houston (6-2, 279, Sr.) |
| | 92 | Ben Alexander (6-0, 310, Sr.) |
| RDT | 91 | Kheeston Randall (6-5, 275, So.) |
| | 94 | Michael Wilcoxon (6-3, 285, So.) |
| RDE | | Alex Okafor (6-4, 232, Fr.) |
| | 81 | Sam Acho (6-3, 258, Jr.) |
| SLB | 1 | Keenan Robinson (6-3, 225, So.) |
| | 13 | Tariq Allen (6-2, 235, Fr.) |
| MLB | 11 | Jared Norton (6-3, 230, Sr.) |
| | 42 | Dustin Earnest (6-3, 233, Jr.) |
| WLB | 38 | Roddrick Muckelroy (6-2, 235, Sr.) |
| | 18 | Emmanuel Acho (6-2, 220, So.) |
| LCB | 4 | Aaron Williams (6-1, 175, So.) |
| | 7 | Deon Beasley (5-10, 175, Sr.) |
| RCB | 8 | Chykie Brown (6-1, 185, Jr.) |
| | 3 | Curtis Brown (6-1, 182, Jr.) |
| FS | 21 | Blake Gideon (6-1, 197, So.) |
| | 27 | Nolan Brewster (6-2, 210, So.) |
| SS | 12 | Earl Thomas (5-10, 195, So.) |
| | 6 | Christian Scott (6-1, 205, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 15 | Lawrence Hunter (6-0, 185, Sr.) |
| P | 9 | Justin Tucker (6-1, 175, So.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | TEXAS | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 551 | 244 |
| Points Per Game | 42.4 | 18.8 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 352 | 239 |
| Rushing | 132 | 68 |
| Passing | 189 | 148 |
| Penalty | 31 | 23 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2177 | 1086 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2498 | 1608 |
| Yards lost rushing | 321 | 522 |
| Rushing Attempts | 508 | 356 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.3 | 3.1 |
| Average Per Game | 167.5 | 83.5 |
| TDs Rushing | 33 | 8 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 4008 | 3372 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 447-343-8 | 491-276-6 |
| Average Per Pass | 9.0 | 6.9 |
| Average Per Catch | 11.7 | 12.2 |
| Average Per Game | 308.3 | 259.4 |
| TDs Passing | 36 | 19 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 6185 | 4458 |
| Total Plays | 955 | 847 |
| Average Per Play | 6.5 | 5.3 |
| Average Per Game | 475.8 | 342.9 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 40-905 | 68-1575 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 13-106 | 11-74 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 6-105 | 8-138 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | TEXAS | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 22.6 | 23.2 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 8.2 | 6.7 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 17.5 | 17.2 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 16-6 | 25-10 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 83-738 | 94-792 |
| Average Per Game | 56.8 | 60.9 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 41-1798 | 61-2398 |
| Average Per Punt | 43.9 | 39.3 |
| Net punt average | 39.6 | 35.9 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 32:33 | 27:27 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 95/173 | 64/183 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 55% | 35% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 13/16 | 11/30 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 81% | 37% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 47-383 | 26-179 |
| MISC YARDS | 65 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 74 | 29 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 11-14 | 14-23 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 72-72 100% | 26-26 100% |
| ATTENDANCE | 686324 | 215605 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/98046 | 4/53901 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 2/82114 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Texas | 104 | 176 | 149 | 122 | 551 |
| Opponent | 31 | 81 | 56 | 76 | 244 |

But it won't be the middle. You can't get the quarterback from there, and Kindle made his sack declaration in the spring: "I really want to lead the nation," he says.

It will help to have heat from the other end, and that could be freshman Alex Okafor, a talented athlete like Kindle and Orakpo who needs experience.

Texas won't be deep on the defensive line but there's confidence in nose tackle Lamarr Houston and tackle Kheeston Randall. Also part of the tackle rotation will be Ben Alexander, who emerged in the spring. Linebackers Roddrick Muckelroy and Jared Norton also had solid springs, according to Brown.

On offense, Texas doesn't need McCoy as the team's leading rusher as he was in '08. McCoy's yards have to go to running backs, but to whom? Either Cody Johnson, Vondrell McGee, Foswhitt Whittaker or Chris Whaley has to step up.

There are also questions on the line and at tight end. Last season, Texas averaged 4.3 yards per carry, which was sixth in the Big 12. Tackle Adam Ulatoski is the best of a bunch that needs to improve this season.

The tight-end spot has been thinned by injuries. Projected starter Blaine Irby missed two-thirds of last season and spring ball with a severe knee injury.

But the passing game should be as good as ever. Brandon Collins, Malcolm Williams, Jordan Shipley and James Kirkendoll will all catch plenty of balls. Even quarterback-turned-receiver John Chiles may nab a few catches.

Shipley also is one of the nation's top kickoff-return specialists. Kickers Lawrence Hunter and Ryan Bailey are back, while punter Justin Tucker, who averaged 45.2 yards a kick, also returns.

This is a team with eyes on the national championship. At least four Longhorns—McCoy, Kindle, Houston and Muckelroy—passed up the NFL for one more crack at a Big 12 and national title.

And this year has the flavor of the 2005 national title season. That team was led by a savvy quarterback (Vince Young) coming off a springboard BCS bowl victory over a Big Ten team. After Texas' Fiesta Bowl title over Ohio State last year, McCoy hopes to follow suit.

Oklahoma will provide the biggest challenge in the Big 12. And Florida again looks dominant in the national picture. But McCoy says they have a roadmap for success.

"We definitely know what it takes to get there," McCoy says.

## RECRUITING REPORT

After losing some of the top in-state players to Oklahoma in 2008, Texas reclaimed the state this season with 19 in-state players. Three of those were among the best in the nation at their position.

Quarterback **Garrett Gilbert** likely will back up Colt McCoy after putting up record-breaking numbers in high school. Defensive end **Alex Okafor** has the look of a future first-round draft pick.

**Mason Walters** has an ideal offensive tackle body with the versatility to play anywhere on the line.

Texas also added depth to the offensive line with **Thomas Ashcraft, Garrett Porter** and **Paden Kelley**, and the Longhorns signed two of the nation's best tight ends in **Barrett Matthews** and **Trey Graham**. On defense, the Longhorns landed tackle **Calvin Howell**, athlete **Chris Whaley** and corner **Marcus Davis**.

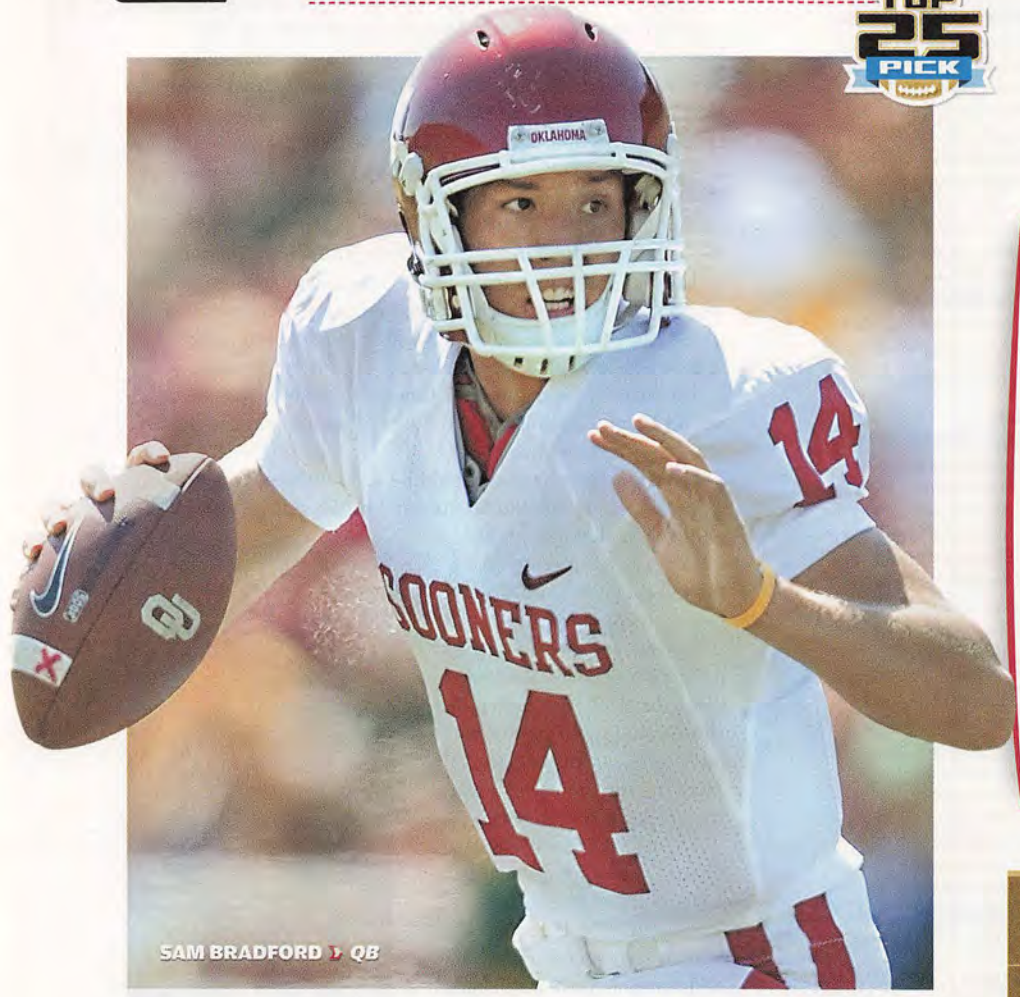
*—Barton Simmons, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *ALEX OKAFOR, DE*

The freshman enrolled in time for spring drills and impressed the coaches. Teammates raved about his motor.

# 2 OKLAHOMA SOONERS

TOP 25 PICK



SAM BRADFORD › QB

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Brigham Young* | |
| S.12 | Idaho State | |
| S.19 | Tulsa | |
| 0.3 | @MIAMI (FL) | |
| 0.10 | Baylor | 49-17 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| 0.17 | @TEXAS** | 35-45 |
| The Red River Rivalry is one of college football's great spectacles, and this one could be the best quarterback matchup of the season. | | |
| 0.24 | @KANSAS | 45-31 |
| 0.31 | Kansas State | 58-35 |
| N.7 | @NEBRASKA | 62-28 |
| N.14 | Texas A&M | 66-28 |
| N.21 | @TEXAS TECH | 65-21 |
| N.28 | Oklahoma State | 61-41 |

** at Arlington, TX*
*** at Dallas, TX*

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» FIESTA BOWL

BCS BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE › A**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- The numbers may not be as prolific, but Sam Bradford will again shine.
- Success will come if the Sooners reload and don't rebuild on the offensive line.
- The defense won't surrender as many points this season.

Oklahoma offered no apologies after emerging from the controversial Big 12 division tiebreaker, and it shouldn't have.

The league agreed to the rule—the BCS standings are the final word when no other tiebreaker works—to give its division champion the best shot at reaching the national championship game.

The Sooners had lost to Texas earlier in the year during the Red River Rivalry showdown but jumped ahead of the Longhorns in the BCS poll later in the season after Texas fell at Texas Tech. The South Division tiebreaker and worthiness of the Oklahoma-Texas contest became the BCS controversy of 2008.

Oklahoma didn't help itself by losing to Florida by 10 in the BCS title game.

January may be haunting the program, but not December. Oklahoma has become the dominant force in the Big 12, winning six of the last 13 titles. No other program has more than two Big 12 crowns during that time.

To extend the streak, the Sooners have to rebuild the offensive line. That record-setting offense—716 total points, 99 touchdowns and 60-plus points in five straight games—was the product of talented players, including Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Sam Bradford. But it's what's up front that counts, and nobody was better on the line than the Sooners.

Duke Robinson, Phil Loadholt, Jon Cooper and Brandon Walker helped Oklahoma become the first team in the game's history to have a 4,000-yard passer and two 1,000-yard rushers in DeMarco Murray and Chris Brown.

That group is gone, but a good lineman returns in tackle Trent Williams, who will move to the left side in 2009.

Junior Cory Brandon is projected to start on the right side, with Stephen Good at right guard, Brian Simmons at left guard and Ben Habern at center.

The group remains a work-in-progress. Oklahoma's running backs gained only 52 yards on 27 attempts behind the line in the spring game, but it was operating without Murray and Brown.

While the numbers may not be 2008 vintage, the offense is starting over only on the line. Bradford's decision to return for his junior year surprised many, although not the ones closest to him.

"He wanted to come back for one more year all along," says Kent Bradford, Sam's father and a former Oklahoma lineman. Dad learned Sam likely would have been an early-to-mid selection in the first round. However, his son is enjoying college too much.

JAY DROWNS / SPORTING NEWS

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

Sam Bradford

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14 | 180.84 | 483-328-8 | 67.9 | 4720 | 50 | 337.1 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chris Brown | 14 | 217 | 1220 | 5.6 | 20 | 87.1 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jermaine Gresham | 14 | 66 | 950 | 14.4 | 14 | 67.9 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Travis Lewis | 14 | 70 | 74 | 144 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jeremy Beal | 14 | 8.5 | 70 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dominique Franks | 4 | 52 | 13.0 | 1 |
| Travis Lewis | 4 | 108 | 27.0 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 12-2
**Big 12:** 7-1
*(lost to Florida in the BCS National Championship Game, 24-14)*

**Coach:** Bob Stoops
11th year (109-24)
**Career record:** 109-24
**Offensive coordinator:**
Kevin Wilson (8th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Brent Venables (11th year)

**Stadium:** Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium (82,112)
**Tickets:** 800-456-4668
**Site:** Norman
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.soonersports.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 14 | Sam Bradford (6-4, 218, Jr.) |
| | 12 | Landry Jones (6-4, 211, Fr.) |
| RB | 29 | Chris Brown (5-11, 210, Sr.) |
| | 7 | DeMarco Murray (6-1, 205, Jr.) |
| LOT | 71 | Trent Williams (6-5, 308, Sr.) |
| | 59 | Donald Stephenson (6-6, 275, So.) |
| LOG | 74 | Brian Simmons (6-5, 304, Sr.) |
| | 78 | Alex Williams (6-5, 300, So.) |
| C | 60 | Ben Habern (6-4, 275, Fr.) |
| | 54 | Jason Hannan (6-3, 283, So.) |
| ROG | 77 | Stephen Good (6-5, 305, So.) |
| | 78 | Alex Williams (6-5, 300, So.) |
| ROT | 70 | Cory Brandon (6-7, 308, Jr.) |
| | 75 | Jarvis Jones (6-7, 294, So.) |
| TE | 18 | Jermaine Gresham (6-6, 261, Sr.) |
| | 83 | Brody Eldridge (6-5, 265, Sr.) |
| WR | 80 | Adron Tennell (6-4, 191, Sr.) |
| | 8 | Brandon Caleb (6-2, 196, Jr.) |
| WR | 17 | Mossis Madu (6-0, 196, Jr.) |
| | 24 | Dejuan Miller (6-5, 200, So.) |
| WR | 85 | Ryan Broyles (5-11, 175, So.) |
| | 4 | Jameel Owens (6-3, 200, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 44 | Jeremy Beal (6-3, 253, Jr.) |
| | 91 | RJ Washington (6-4, 242, Fr.) |
| LDT | 93 | Gerald McCoy (6-4, 295, Jr.) |
| | 92 | Stacy McGee (6-4, 260, Fr.) |
| RDT | 86 | Adrian Taylor (6-4, 295, Jr.) |
| | 89 | Cordero Moore (6-2, 295, Sr.) |
| RDE | 33 | Auston English (6-3, 253, Sr.) |
| | 84 | Frank Alexander (6-4, 229, So.) |
| SLB | 22 | Keenan Clayton (6-2, 220, Jr.) |
| | 21 | J.R. Bryant (6-3, 230, Sr.) |
| MLB | 10 | Mike Balogun (6-2, 250, Sr.) |
| | 4 | Ryan Reynolds (6-1, 234, Sr.) |
| WLB | 28 | Travis Lewis (6-2, 232, So.) |
| | 48 | Brandon Crow (6-0, 228, Jr.) |
| LCB | 2 | Brian Jackson (6-1, 202, Sr.) |
| | 15 | Lamar Harris (6-2, 180, Fr.) |
| RCB | 1 | Dominique Franks (6-0, 189, Jr.) |
| | 3 | Jonathan Nelson (5-11, 177, Jr.) |
| FS | 25 | Emmanuel Jones (5-11, 190, Sr.) |
| | 27 | Sam Proctor (6-0, 208, So.) |
| SS | 20 | Quinton Carter (6-2, 192, Jr.) |
| | 6 | Desmond Jackson (5-11, 198, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 17 | Jimmy Stevens (5-6, 156, So.) |
| P | 36 | Tress Way (6-1, 190, Fr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | OKLAHOMA | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 716 | 343 |
| Points Per Game | 51.1 | 24.5 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 386 | 272 |
| Rushing | 153 | 95 |
| Passing | 211 | 154 |
| Penalty | 22 | 23 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2779 | 1627 |
| Yards gained rushing | 3009 | 2085 |
| Yards lost rushing | 230 | 458 |
| Rushing Attempts | 589 | 469 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.7 | 3.5 |
| Average Per Game | 198.5 | 116.2 |
| TDs Rushing | 45 | 19 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 4891 | 3521 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 517-350-9 | 527-292-19 |
| Average Per Pass | 9.5 | 6.7 |
| Average Per Catch | 14.0 | 12.1 |
| Average Per Game | 349.4 | 251.5 |
| TDs Passing | 51 | 22 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 7670 | 5148 |
| Total Plays | 1106 | 996 |
| Average Per Play | 6.9 | 5.2 |
| Average Per Game | 547.9 | 367.7 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 52-1301 | 103-2456 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 32-272 | 10-50 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 19-271 | 9-(-5) |

| TEAM STATISTICS | OKLAHOMA | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 25.0 | 23.8 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 8.5 | 5.0 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 14.3 | -0.6 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 13-2 | 35-15 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 102-905 | 93-674 |
| Average Per Game | 64.6 | 48.1 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 54-1971 | 77-3212 |
| Average Per Punt | 36.5 | 41.7 |
| Net punt average | 33.7 | 37.1 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 29:26 | 30:34 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 101/197 | 75/206 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 51% | 36% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 12/23 | 15/30 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 52% | 50% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 42-292 | 13-95 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 99 | 45 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 8-13 | 9-15 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 94-99 | 40-41 |
| ATTENDANCE | 510448 | 286549 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/85075 | 5/57310 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 3/80551 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oklahoma | 225 | 238 | 153 | 100 | 716 |
| Opponent | 30 | 127 | 91 | 95 | 343 |

Bradford's great strength is his accuracy (he has a career completion percentage of 68.6).

For an encore this season, Bradford would like to win the final game, which takes place in Pasadena, Calif.

Brown (1,220 yards rushing) and Murray (1,002) may be why Bradford throws for less than 4,700 yards this season. Any program would like to have one of those guys.

The leading pass catchers are gone, but the Sooners are deep. Speedster Ryan Broyles moves to the outside, while running back Mossis Madu goes to the slot. Senior Adron Tennell gets his shot at becoming a starter.

But the leading receiver might wind up being tight end Jermaine Gresham (26 career TDs), while Brody Eldridge is one of the nation's best blocking tight ends.

With all of that scoring, how did the defense hold up? Not great. Oklahoma surrendered 343 points, the most in Stoops' 10 seasons.

The Sooners led the Big 12 in turnover margin and, despite the numbers, ranked at or near the top in most major defensive categories. Still, the numbers took their toll.

"It's about attitude and pride," defensive coordinator Brent Venables says. "Last year, that was one of our weak links."

Not so this time. The confident group begins up front, where ends Jeremy Beal, Frank Alexander and David King had an excellent spring. Auston English, an established sack machine, will rejoin the unit after missing spring practice with an injury.

Tackles Gerald McCoy and Adrian Taylor are also back.

Travis Lewis became a dominant linebacker on the weak side in his first season. He became the heart of the unit when middle 'backer Ryan Reynolds went down with a season-ending injury.

The position is rich with Reynolds and Mike Balogun in the middle, and strongside starter Keenan Clayton. The Sooners also liked the play of freshman linebackers Jaydan Bird, Ronnell Lewis and Tom Wort in the spring.

In the secondary, Dominique Franks and Brian Jackson are back at corner. Walk-on Emmanuel Jones may get a shot at safety. Desmond Jackson, who played corner and safety in the spring, could also see time.

Special teams hurt Oklahoma in its losses to Texas and Florida. While kicker Jimmy Stevens is solid, questions surround the coverage and punting units.

There is enough here for a run at the Big 12 title.

## RECRUITING REPORT

There are a lot of strengths in this '09 class, particularly on defense. The defensive backs the Sooners signed include a physical safety in **Kevin Brent**, a versatile corner in **Gabe Lynn**, four-star corner **Demontre Hurst** and one of the top cover men in the country in **Marcus Trice**. Lynn may be asked to contribute early in his career.

At linebacker, Oklahoma has one of the best duos in the country in headhunter **Tom Wort** and **Ronnell Lewis**, a former eight-man football star who could possess the most upside in the class.

On the defensive line, tackle **Jamarkus McFarland** was one of the most heavily recruited players in the nation at any position. McFarland's motor and technique make him disruptive at the line.

**Drew Allen** has the intangibles to be the next great Sooner quarterback.

—Barton Simmons, Rivals.com

## THE NEXT BIG THING *TOM WORT, LB*

The freshman impressed in the spring, but this claim could also go to fellow rookie 'backers Ronnell Lewis or Jaydan Bird.

# 3 OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS

KENDALL HUNTER › RB

Every day, things are getting closer for Oklahoma State. Progress has been steady for coach Mike Gundy, who made his coaching debut in 2005.

The Cowboys fell at home to Oklahoma in the season finale, then dropped a competitive Holiday Bowl to Oregon, ending the year one game short of a 10-victory season (9-4). After the game, Gundy knew the expectations would be higher for 2009.

If Oklahoma State maintains its offensive production, the program will be fine on that side of the ball. The Cowboys' chances for improvement will be based on defense.

Defensive coordinator Tim Beckman became Toledo's head coach, and Gundy hired Bill Young, who is familiar to Oklahoma State fans, as he played for the Cowboys and served two stints on the coaching staff.

Since 2002, Oklahoma State hasn't ranked better than 74th in total defense but there are some talented defenders this year. Linebacker Andre Sexton and cornerback Perrish Cox are all-conference-caliber players. But getting pressure on the quarterback is the top priority.

The improvement has to start up front from ends Ugo Chinasa, Jeremiah Price, Jamie Blatnick, Richetti Jones and Darius Hart and tackles Derek Burton, Swanson Miller and Shane Jarka. Last year, Oklahoma State recorded a conference-low 15 sacks.

And improving won't be easy. This year's schedule contains the top five and seven of the 16 top passing teams from 2008.

"When you face four or five of the best offenses in the country, you're not going to have the best stats, even when you're playing good football," Young says.

It just has to be better, and Gundy has all the faith in Young. When he got to Kansas in 2002, the Jayhawks were 112th in total defense. In 2008, Kansas had All-America cornerback Aqib Talib.

On offense, quarterback Zac Robinson, receiver Dez Bryant and running back Kendall Hunter make up a deadly trio.

In a conference with Sam Bradford and Colt McCoy, Robinson doesn't get his due. But he's one of the nation's top dual-threat quarterbacks and enters his senior season with career numbers of 6,233 passing and 1,553 rushing yards.

Bryant flourished last season as a consensus All-American who caught 87 passes with an average of 17 yards per catch. He led the Big 12 in receiving yards per game (113.9), scoring (9.69 points per game) and touchdown receptions (19).

It was no coincidence that Oklahoma State started falling behind Oregon in the bowl game when Bryant went out with a knee injury that required offseason surgery.

Hunter ran for 1,555 yards and was the Big 12's leading rusher by nearly 30 yards per game last year. He also scored 16 touchdowns.

The offensive line, led by tackle Russell Okung, should help keep things moving.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***DONALD BOOKER, LB***

Booker is a senior who transferred in from Navarro (Texas) College two years ago. He was named the most improved player during spring practice, and the Oklahoma State coaches like his speed.

TOP 25 PICK

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.5** | **Georgia** | |
| Nothing like a tussle with an SEC power out of the box to see where you stand. This is a major credibility game for the Cowboys. | | |
| **S.12** | Houston | 56-37 |
| **S.19** | Rice | |
| **S.26** | Grambling State | |
| **O.10** | @TEXAS A&M | 56-28 |
| **O.17** | Missouri | 28-23 |
| **O.24** | @BAYLOR | 34-6 |
| **O.31** | Texas | 24-28 |
| **N.7** | @IOWA STATE | 59-17 |
| **N.14** | Texas Tech | 20-56 |
| **N.19** | Colorado | 30-17 |
| **N.28** | @OKLAHOMA | 41-61 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** MIDDLE TIER BOWL
» COTTON BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE A-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Offense is amazing with weapons everywhere.
- Defense doesn't get the benefit of the doubt, but Bill Young is a great hire.
- Cowboys will miss punter Matt Fodge.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-4
**Big 12:** 5-3
*(lost to Oregon in the Holiday Bowl, 42-31)*

**Coach:** Mike Gundy
5th year (27-23)
**Career Record:** 27-23
**Offensive coordinator:**
Gunter Brewer (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Bill Young (1st year)

**Stadium:** Boone Pickens Stadium (48,000)
**Tickets:** 405-744-5745
**Site:** Stillwater
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.okstate.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 11 | Zac Robinson (6-3, 218, Sr.) |
| FB | 37 | Bryant Ward (5-11, 225, Jr.) |
| RB | 24 | Kendall Hunter (5-8, 190, Jr.) |
| LOT | 76 | Russell Okung (6-6, 305, Sr.) |
| LOG | 70 | Jonathan Rush (6-5, 309, So.) |
| C | 54 | Andrew Lewis (6-5, 290, Sr.) |
| ROG | 77 | Noah Franklin (6-5, 310, Sr.) |
| ROT | 60 | Brady Bond (6-7, 295, Sr.) |
| TE | 86 | Wilson Youman (6-4, 252, So.) |
| WR | 1 | Dez Bryant (6-2, 215, Jr.) |
| WR | 80 | DeMarcus Conner (6-1, 206, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 91 | Ugo Chinasa (6-5, 253, Jr.) |
| LDT | 98 | Derek Burton (6-3, 285, Sr.) |
| RDT | 90 | Swanson Miller (6-4, 300, Sr.) |
| RDE | 97 | Jeremiah Price (6-2, 260, Sr.) |
| SLB | 20 | Andre Sexton (6-0, 217, Sr.) |
| MLB | 41 | Orie Lemon (6-1, 249, Sr.) |
| WLB | 4 | Patrick Lavine (6-2, 222, Sr.) |
| LCB | 23 | Terrance Anderson (5-11, 185, Sr.) |
| RCB | 16 | Perrish Cox (6-0, 195, Sr.) |
| FS | 12 | Johnny Thomas (6-0, 195, So.) |
| SS | 3 | Victor Johnson (6-1, 175, So.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 95 | Dan Bailey (6-1, 285, Jr.) |
| P | 38 | Grayson Buster (5-11, 180, So.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** — **Anthony Morgan**, *G, 6-4, 325*
Don't be surprised if Morgan is starting by the end of the first practice in the fall.

**2** — **Dexter Pratt**, *ATH, 6-2, 227*
Pratt has speed, hands and a physical build. He could star at running back, fullback or even linebacker for Oklahoma State.

**3** — **Jeremy Smith**, *RB, 5-10, 206*
A versatile and pass-friendly back, Smith will be a perfect fit for the Cowboys' explosive offense.

**4** — **Brandon Webb**, *G, 6-4, 320*
With great size and athleticism, Webb could end up at guard or center.

**5** — **Daytawion Lowe**, *S, 6-0, 175*
Lowe is a physical, hard-hitting safety who excels coming downhill and playing in the box.

JAY DROWNS / SN

# TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS 4

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | North Dakota | |
| S.12 | Rice | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.19 @TEXAS 39-33**

The Big 12 needed some early marquee games and this one will attract plenty of attention after the Red Raiders' wild triumph in 2008.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.26 | @HOUSTON | |
| 0.3 | New Mexico | |
| 0.10 | Kansas State | 58-28 |
| 0.17 | @NEBRASKA | 37-31 (OT) |
| 0.24 | Texas A&M | 43-25 |
| 0.31 | Kansas | 63-21 |
| N.14 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | 56-20 |
| N.21 | Oklahoma | 21-65 |
| N.28 | @BAYLOR@ | 35-28 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** MIDDLE TIER BOWL
» SUN BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» Front seven is the strength of the defense.
» Crabtree and Harrell were wildly talented, but this offense can create new stars.
» Look for a little more ground game from these Raiders.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 15 | Taylor Potts (6-5, 215, Jr.) |
| RB | 25 | Baron Batch (5-11, 200, Jr.) |
| LOT | 76 | Brandon Carter (6-7, 354, Sr.) |
| LOG | 70 | Chris Olson (6-5, 271, Jr.) |
| C | 51 | Shawn Byrnes (6-4, 295, Sr.) |
| ROG | 77 | Mickey Okafor (6-7, 320, So.) |
| ROT | 67 | Marlon Winn (6-6, 325, Sr.) |
| TE | 5 | Ryan Hale (6-1, 227, Sr.) |
| WR | 19 | Lyle Leong (6-1, 165, Jr.) |
| WR | 17 | Detron Lewis (6-0, 209, Jr.) |
| WR | 8 | Jacoby Franks (6-1, 194, So.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 43 | McKinner Dixon (6-3, 250, Sr.) |
| LDT | 99 | Richard Jones (6-1, 272, Sr.) |
| RDT | 6 | Colby Whitlock (6-2, 281, Jr.) |
| RDE | 92 | Brandon Sharpe (6-3, 244, Sr.) |
| SLB | 20 | Bront Bird (6-3, 220, Jr.) |
| MLB | 57 | Brian Duncan (6-1, 238, Jr.) |
| WLB | 39 | Marlon Williams (6-0, 224, Sr.) |
| LCB | 3 | Jamar Wall (5-10, 195, Sr.) |
| RCB | 28 | LaRon Moore (5-9, 186, Jr.) |
| FS | 26 | Franklin Mitchem (6-2, 201, Jr.) |
| SS | 16 | Cody Davis (6-2, 205, Fr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 85 | Matt Williams (5-8, 160, Jr.) |
| P | 49 | Donnie Carona (6-0, 215, So.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 11-2
**Big 12:** 7-1
*(lost to Ole Miss in the Cotton Bowl, 47-34)*

**Coach:** Mike Leach
10th year (76-39)
**Career record:** 76-39
**Offensive coordinators:**
Joe Wickline (1st year)
Gunter Brewer (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Bill Young (1st year)

**Stadium:** Jones AT&T Stadium (52,882)
**Tickets:** 806-742-TECH
**Site:** Lubbock
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.texastech.com

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN FOR SCHWARTZMAN SPORTS

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

Probably nowhere else would a contract negotiation receive as much attention as it did at Texas Tech.

The day before Mike Leach could have been fired, so the speculation went, he signed a five-year, $12.7 million deal. The financial terms weren't the issue. The disagreement came over other provisions.

Leach doesn't need permission from Texas Tech to interview for other jobs, but must notify athletic director Gerald Myers in advance. And school officials weren't happy when Leach went to Seattle before the bowl game to discuss the Washington job.

There's no buyout if Leach takes another job, and Leach and Texas Tech compromised on the use of the coach's likeness and income from outside sources.

How did this get to be such a big story? First, Leach's personality is as big as west Texas. He's a can't-miss at scheduled media opportunities and even better in a one-on-one situation.

But now comes the hard part: carrying on without record-setting quarterback Graham Harrell, the only player in NCAA history with two 5,000-yard passing seasons, and Michael Crabtree, a two-time winner of the Biletnikoff Award, given to college football's top receiver.

Stepping in at quarterback is Taylor Potts, who has greater size and better arm strength than any of Leach's previous quarterbacks. Plus, he's had two years of watching Harrell.

"He's talented as far as size and strong arm, but probably the biggest thing would be he's a real coachable guy," Leach says.

But who will step in for Crabtree, who had 93 receptions and 18 touchdowns? The primary target could be Detron Lewis (76 catches, 3 TDs).

The running game was productive in 2008. As much as Texas Tech throws, it produced 2,320 yards and 22 touchdowns on the ground and leading rusher Baron Batch (742 yards) returns.

The Red Raiders' offensive line manhandled most defensive thrusts last year, and this year's group will be anchored by Brandon Carter. During spring drills, Carter dropped some weight and made the move to tackle.

On the defensive front, senior Richard Jones is ready to dial it up a notch.

He's been part of the rotation since his freshman year and started eight games last season. And with Colby Whitlock, the Red Raiders again look strong up front.

Brian Duncan, the team's best tackler (89), leads a group of returning linebackers. Also back among the linebacking corps are Bront Bird and Marlon Williams.

The concern is in the secondary, where replacements must be found for Darcel McBath and Daniel Charbonnet, who combined for 12 interceptions last year.

Back at kicker is Matt Williams, the contest winner who became a school folk hero last season.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 Eric Stephens**
*RB, 5-8, 177*
A nightmare in space and natural pass-catcher, Stephens displays all the traits needed to be a running back in Mike Leach's offense.

**2 Eric Ward**
*WR, 5-11, 190*
A thick and speedy receiver, Ward will be a dynamic big-play threat for the Red Raiders out of the slot.

**3 Pearlie Graves**
*DT, 6-3, 260*
Graves has tremendous quickness for a lineman and should be a disruptive penetrator at the next level.

**4 Myles Wade**
*DT, 6-2, 311*
An Oregon signee out of high school, Wade will be asked to contribute early on the defensive line.

**5 Kyle Clark**
*OT, 6-5, 267*
An athletic lineman with a mean streak, Clark will get better as he continues to add weight.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***TAYLOR POTTS, QB***

If history is a guide, Taylor Potts will go from not taking significant snaps as a college quarterback to becoming the nation's leader (or among the leaders) in passing yards and touchdowns. That's just how it works at Texas Tech.

# 5 BAYLOR BEARS

Robert Griffin quit the hurdles. That's how much he wants to be a top-level quarterback.

Griffin loves the hurdles, and he's good in the event. Last year, he graduated from high school one semester early to enroll at Baylor.

After spring football workouts, he joined the track team and won the 400-meter hurdles at the Big 12 meet. He was ranked fourth nationally in the event in 2008 and is seen as a contender for the 2012 Olympics, depending on his football schedule.

"What he's doing is sacrificing an opportunity for this football team and the other players on this team," Bears coach Art Briles says. "That's part of being a great leader."

As good as he is on the track, Griffin was even more dazzling on the gridiron during a season in which he was named Big 12 Newcomer of the Year. He passed for 2,091 yards and 15 touchdowns and ran for 843 yards and 13 touchdowns.

Because he spent the offseason playing football, Briles says Griffin's improvement was noticeable.

"He's so much stronger physically," Briles says.

Now, the next step is getting Baylor to a bowl game. That hasn't happened for the Bears since 1994, which spans the program's entire Big 12 life. Optimism is high because the program's talent runs deeper than Griffin.

Nine starters are back on offense, although one of the departed was tackle Jason Smith, the league's best offensive lineman in 2008 and the No. 2 overall pick in the NFL draft.

Guards James Barnard and Jordan Hearvey are back along with center J.D. Walton, who has become one of the league's best.

As good as Griffin was, he wasn't Baylor's leading rusher. That honor went to Jay Finley (865 rushing yards, 7 TDs).

The wide-receiver group is stocked with experience. Kendall Wright (50 passes, 649 yards, 5 TDs), Ernest Smith (3 TDs) and David Gettis (18 career starts) are all back, as is tight end Justin Akers (14 receptions, 2 TDs).

Nine starters also return on defense, including two of the program's more heralded performers in the Big 12.

Linebacker Joe Pawelek was the only player in college football to be ranked in the top 10 nationally in tackles and interceptions per game in 2008.

The other standout is free safety Jordan Lake. He's a tackling machine who is one of the Big 12's biggest hitters.

There's experience in the secondary. Senior Jeremy Williams is the starter at "hero" safety, while cornerbacks Tim Atchison, Antareis Bryan and Trentson Hill have 41 career starts combined.

Senior Trey Bryant is a solid nose guard and is flanked at tackle by Jason Lamb and Penn State transfer Phil Taylor. Taylor will likely get the starting nod after a solid spring. Sophomores Zac Scotton and Tracy Robertson are the projected starters at defensive end.

Kicker Ben Parks, punter Derek Epperson, snapper Carter Brunelle and return specialist Mikail Baker are all back. The question is, will that translate into success for Baylor?

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***PHIL TAYLOR, DT***

Taylor was part of an excellent defense at Penn State. He started the final four games of 2007 and played well in the victory over Texas A&M in the Alamo Bowl.

ROBERT GRIFFIN • QB

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 4-8
**Big 12:** 2-6

**Coach:** Art Briles
2nd year (4-8)
**Career Record:** 38-35
**Offensive coordinators:**
Randy Clements (2nd year) and Philip Montgomery (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Brian Norwood (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Floyd Casey Stadium (50,000)
**Tickets:** 800-BAYLOR-U
**Site:** Waco, Texas
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.baylorbears.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @WAKE FOREST | 13-41 |
| S.19 | Connecticut | 28-31 |
| S.26 | Northwestern State | 51-6 |
| 0.3 | Kent State | |
| 0.10 | @OKLAHOMA | 17-49 |
| 0.17 | @IOWA STATE | 38-10 |
| 0.24 | Oklahoma State | 6-34 |
| 0.31 | Nebraska | 20-32 |
| N.7 | @MISSOURI | 28-31 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.14 Texas** **21-45**

The Bears figure to play everybody tough this season, but no victory would mean more than this one.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| N.21 | @TEXAS A&M | 41-21 |
| N.28 | Texas Tech* | 28-35 |

** at Arlington, TX*

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL
» INDEPENDENCE BOWL

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Plenty of potential for a better grade, but it's not easy climbing in the Big 12.
- Griffin is a special player. Think Vince Young, early years.
- Pawelek and Lake are the program's heart and soul.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 10 | Robert Griffin (6-3, 200, So.) |
| RB | 32 | Jay Finley (5-11, 205, Jr.) |
| LOT | 58 | Danny Watkins (6-4, 310, Jr.) |
| LOG | 75 | Jordan Hearvey (6-5, 270, Sr.) |
| C | 55 | J.D. Walton (6-3, 305, Sr.) |
| ROG | 61 | James Barnard (6-4, 295, Sr.) |
| ROT | 69 | Cameron Kaufhold (6-4, 285, Fr.) |
| TE | 14 | Justin Akers (6-4, 250, Sr.) |
| WR | 1 | Kendall Wright (5-11, 180, So.) |
| WR | 13 | Ernest Smith (6-3, 195, Sr.) |
| WR | 4 | David Gettis (6-4, 210, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 57 | Tracy Robertson (6-4, 260, So.) |
| LDT | 98 | Phil Taylor (6-4, 355, Jr.) |
| RDT | 97 | Trey Bryant (6-2, 310, Sr.) |
| RDE | 96 | Zac Scotton (6-7, 260, So.) |
| SLB | 6 | Antonio Jones (6-2, 225, Sr.) |
| MLB | 41 | Joe Pawelek (6-2, 240, Sr.) |
| WLB | 7 | Antonio Johnson (6-0, 210, Jr.) |
| LCB | 8 | Tim Atchison (6-1, 205, Jr.) |
| RCB | 3 | Antareis Bryan (6-2, 190, Jr.) |
| FS | 21 | Jordan Lake (6-1, 210, Sr.) |
| SS | 4 | Jeremy Williams (5-11, 205, Sr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PK | 40 | Ben Parks (6-2, 205, So.) |
| P | 38 | Derek Epperson (6-3, 240, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1**
**Glasco Martin**
*ATH, 6-1, 196*
Despite the ability to be a dominant receiver, Martin was on the ground as a prep, rushing for more than 1,600 yards.

**2**
**Danny Watkins**
*OT, 6-5, 290*
Watkins is a 24-year-old junior and should push for a starting job early in his career.

**3**
**Ivory Wade**
*G, 6-4, 306*
Wade has an NFL-type body, nimble feet and good upfield athleticism, giving the Bears immediate line depth.

**4**
**Darius Jones**
*ATH, 6-0, 185*
A do-everything athlete in high school, Jones will most likely find himself in the slot position.

**5**
**Josh Gordon**
*WR, 6-4, 211*
Gordon is talented and may have as much potential as any wide receiver from Texas in the class of 2009.

JAY DROWNS / SN

# TEXAS A&M AGGIES 6

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| S.5 | New Mexico | 28-22 |

The Aggies needed a good showing right out of the gate, or else it might be another long season in College Station.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.19 | Utah State | |
| S.26 | UAB | |
| 0.3 | Arkansas* | |
| 0.10 | Oklahoma State | 28-56 |
| 0.17 | @KANSAS STATE | 30-44 |
| 0.24 | @TEXAS TECH | 25-43 |
| 0.31 | Iowa State | 49-35 |
| N.7 | @COLORADO | 24-17 |
| N.14 | @OKLAHOMA | 28-66 |
| N.21 | Baylor | 21-41 |
| N.26 | Texas | 9-49 |

** at Arlington, TX*

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE D

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Johnson has to take the next step at QB and Aggies must find a top reserve.
- Miller could be a beast at a hybrid position.
- Too many questions remain for Texas A&M to challenge the division leaders.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 4-8
**Big 12:** 2-6

**Coach:** Mike Sherman
2nd year (4-8)
**Career record:** 4-8
**Offensive coordinator:**
Nolan Cromwell (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Joe Kines (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Kyle Field (82,600)
**Tickets:** 979-845-2311
**Site:** College Station
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.aggieathletics.com

MANNY FLORES / CAL SPORT MEDIA

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 1 | Jerrod Johnson (6-5, 229, Jr.) |
| FB | 33 | Jay Tolliver (5-10, 197, Fr.) |
| RB | 32 | Cyrus Gray (5-10, 188, So.) |
| LOT | 76 | Michael Shumard (6-5, 301, Sr.) |
| LOG | 65 | Evan Eike (6-4, 303, So.) |
| C | 63 | Kevin Matthews (6-4, 297, Sr.) |
| ROG | 74 | Lee Grimes (6-6, 339, Sr.) |
| ROT | 61 | Vincent Williams (6-4, 314, Sr.) |
| TE | 4 | Jamie McCoy (6-3, 224, Sr.) |
| WR | 8 | Jeff Fuller (6-4, 209, So.) |
| WR | 83 | Terrence McCoy (6-4, 198, Jr.) |

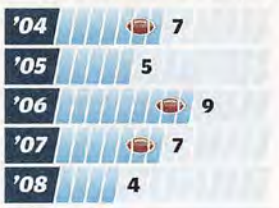
### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 93 | Paul Freeney (6-4, 227, Sr.) |
| LDT | 83 | Tony Jerod-Eddie (6-5, 256, So.) |
| RDT | 77 | Lucas Patterson (6-4, 297, Jr.) |
| RDE | 19 | Eddie Brown (6-0, 265, So.) |
| SLB | 40 | Von Miller (6-3, 214, Jr.) |
| MLB | 46 | Michael Hodges (6-0, 214, So.) |
| WLB | 32 | Kyle Mangan (6-2, 220, Fr.) |
| LCB | 25 | Jordan Pugh (5-11, 191, Sr.) |
| RCB | 21 | Justin McQueen (6-0, 183, So.) |
| FS | 5 | Jordan Peterson (5-10, 184, Sr.) |
| SS | 22 | Trent Hunter (5-10, 185, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| KFG | 28 | Randy Bullock (5-9, 208, So.) |
| P | 84 | Jeff Wood (6-4, 213, Jr.) |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND




## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Christine Michael**
*RB, 5-11, 202*
Perhaps no true freshman in the nation has the potential to make as much of an impact as Michael.

**2 — Jonathan Stewart**
*LB, 6-4, 221*
Stewart is a physically imposing linebacker who plays the game downhill and packs a punch.

**3 — Patrick Lewis**
*OL, 6-2, 293*
Though he is undersized, Lewis is incredibly athletic and finishes blocks as well as any lineman you will find.

**4 — Coryell Judie**
*CB, 5-11, 185*
Judie has the size you want out of a lockdown cornerback and possesses speed to boot.

**5 — Uzoma Nwachukwu**
*WR, 6-0, 186*
Nwachukwu is a physical receiver who takes as much pride in his downfield blocking as he does in his receiving.

The Mike Sherman era started with a home loss to Arkansas State, and the rest of 2008 didn't get much better. From a bowl appearance the previous year to a struggling 4-8 mark, the Aggies had a season to forget.

The biggest issue was team speed. Texas A&M didn't have it last season. This was a team that didn't run the ball well (88.5 yards per game), failed to create havoc in the backfield (16 sacks) and couldn't stop the air attack (opponents completed 64.2 percent of their passes last season).

It all made for the most important recruiting class in years.

Sherman signed 28 recruits, with 20 of those playing wide receiver, running back, defensive back or linebacker. As defensive coordinator Joe Kines said, the Aggies signed more sprinters than shot putters.

How did this happen? The Aggies got caught in their coaching transition. Former coach Dennis Franchione wanted power and strength. Sherman wants speed and skill.

Quarterback Stephen McGee played less than two games last year because of a shoulder injury and the team soon belonged to Jerrod Johnson, who had his moments.

Johnson threw 21 touchdowns while completing 59.5 percent of his passes. But there was also that four-interception loss to Baylor.

Sherman wanted to throw the position open for competition in the spring, and he accommodated Ryan Tannehill's request to move to quarterback from wide receiver. Tannehill set a school freshman record with 844 receiving yards in 2008 while leading the Aggies with 55 receptions.

But Tannehill missed all of spring practice after having shoulder surgery.

Even if Tannehill stays at quarterback, the Aggies won't be without a standout receiver. Jeff Fuller (50 receptions, team-best 9 TDs) returns.

At running back, Bradley Stephens and Cyrus Gray are the leaders but the Aggies' highest-rated recruit is running back Christine Michael.

Four starters return to the offensive line, but that unit was a mess during the spring with only eight healthy scholarship participants. The coaching staff is hopeful the line can get it together, as Texas A&M averaged only 2.9 yards per carry in 2008.

There's more hope for improvement on the defensive side. The staff got a big spring from end Von Miller, who plays what the Aggies call a "jack," or hybrid end/linebacker.

Miller came up huge in the spring game and looked excellent during offseason workouts.

Safeties Jordan Peterson and Trent Hunter also had good springs, as did linebackers Kyle Mangan and Michael Hodges.

Sherman declared the defense ahead of the offense after spring ball, and he'd like for the whole thing to progress faster.

"We're trying to become a championship team," Sherman says. "When that will happen, I can't tell you. But if we keep recruiting the way we're doing and the coaches do their jobs, we can be a championship team."

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***CHRISTINE MICHAEL, RB***

The freshman is expected to be thrown into the running back rotation immediately. He joins a team that had only five runs of 20 yards or more last season.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

## C-USA

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

### EAST

1 ECU
2 Southern Miss
3 Memphis
4 UCF
5 Marshall
6 UAB

### WEST

1 Houston
2 Tulsa
3 UTEP
4 SMU
5 Rice
6 Tulane

## RATING THE PLAYERS

**Fastest Receiver**
Tyron Carrier, Houston

**Best Hands**
Emmanuel Sanders, WR, SMU

**Best Passing QB**
Case Keenum, Houston

**Best Running QB**
Joe Webb, UAB

**Most Elusive RB**
Damion Fletcher, Southern Miss

**Best Instincts**
Curtis Steele, RB, Memphis

**Best Athlete**
Damaris Johnson, WR, Tulsa

**Best Under Pressure**
Ben Hartman, K, East Carolina

**Top NFL Prospect**
Damion Fletcher, RB, Southern Miss

**Top Impact Freshman**
Darius Johnson, WR, SMU

**Hardest Hitter**
Van Eskridge, FS, East Carolina

**Biggest Underachiever**
UTEP

**Best Home-Field Advantage**
East Carolina

**Best Fans**
East Carolina

**Best Mascot**
TOM III, Memphis' live tiger

**Best Stadium**
Ford Stadium, SMU

# In a conference full of offensive gems, defense still reigns supreme

**By Eric Bailey,** *Tulsa World*

Defensive coordinators were left dizzy preparing for Conference USA offenses in 2008.

With 401.8 yards per game, C-USA was one of two Football Bowl Subdivision leagues that averaged more than 400 yards of total offense per contest. The Big 12 (439.6) was the only conference with larger numbers.

In the league's first dozen seasons, only twice had a team reached the 70-point mark. Last year, four different schools met that, with Tulsa and Rice each putting up 77 in their respective contests.

"I think the talent level of this conference is pretty high, and it's the culmination of what everyone is talking about," SMU coach June Jones says.

Conference USA had a banner season in 2008, setting the league record with four bowl wins. East Carolina and Tulsa also both cracked the Top 25 during the season

Will that trend continue? It depends on the offenses. For some, things look promising. For others, there are questions.

Houston will be led by quarterback and reigning C-USA Offensive Player of the Year Case Keenum. Southern Miss, which bought into new coach Larry Fedora's no-huddle attack last year, returns the league's best rusher in Damion Fletcher. Tulsa has led the nation in total offense in consecutive seasons, but co-offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn has departed for Auburn.

After a season of watching C-USA's teams rattle scoreboards, the league's final game proved an old football truth: Defense wins championships.

Tulsa averaged 60.5 points per home game during the regular season, but lost 27-24 to East Carolina in the C-USA championship game.

What did that prove to C-USA coaches?

"Everybody knows how to throw the football and move the ball and score," Southern Miss coach Larry Fedora says. "But what it boils down to is that the team that plays the best defense will win the league."

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Barton Simmons, *Rivals.com*

**1. SOUTHERN MISS** Larry Fedora is proving he is going to be a consistent heavyweight on the recruiting trail.
**2. TULSA** Quarterback Shavodrick Beaver should fit nicely in Tulsa's explosive offense.
**3. HOUSTON** Kevin Sumlin has Houston recruiting at a high level.
**4. UAB** After back-to-back subpar classes, UAB gained a solid mix of junior-college prospects and high school players.
**5. UCF** With signees such as four-star prospect Josh Robinson, UCF is proving that it can land some of Florida's best talent.
**6. MEMPHIS** Some of the top prospects come from the junior college ranks.
**7. RICE** A versatile quarterback in Taylor McHargue and a few highly recruited defenders make this a well-rounded class.
**8. SMU** The offensive line received a huge boost with several prospects who should add immediate depth.
**9. TULANE** With a number of players who could line up on either side of the ball, Tulane picked up some speed and versatility in 2009.
**10. EAST CAROLINA** The Pirates' well-balanced class fell near the bottom of the C-USA recruiting rankings.
**11. MARSHALL** Some steals out of Florida, particularly at linebacker, are the bright spots in Mark Snyder's 2009 class.
**12. UTEP** The Miners added a quarterback of the future in Andy McCloud.

## ALL-CONFERENCE USA

### OFFENSE

QB Case Keenum, Jr., Houston
RB Damion Fletcher, Sr., Southern Miss
RB Curtis Steele, Sr., Memphis
OL Robby Felix, Sr., UTEP
OL Sean Allen, Sr., East Carolina
OL Jake Seitz, Sr., UAB
OL Ryan Hebert, Sr., Southern Miss
OL Tyler Holmes, So., Tulsa
TE Cody Slate, Sr., Marshall
WR DeAndre Brown, So., Southern Miss
WR Tyron Carrier, So., Houston

### DEFENSE

DL C.J. Wilson, Sr., East Carolina
DL Albert McClellan, Sr., Marshall
DL Anthony Gray, Jr., Southern Miss
DL Bruce Miller, Jr., UCF
LB Nick Johnson, Sr., East Carolina
LB Mario Harvey, Sr., Marshall
LB Mike Bryan, Sr., Tulsa
DB Van Eskridge, Sr., East Carolina
DB Eddie Hicks, Sr., Southern Miss
DB Andrew Sendejo, Sr., Rice
DB James Lockett, Sr., Tulsa

### SPECIALISTS

K Ben Hartman, Sr., East Carolina
P Ross Thevenot, Sr., Tulane

## FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

**1** East Carolina will make its second straight appearance in the C-USA title game after a home-field win over Southern Miss in the season's final week.

**2** Tulsa's defense will improve, but its high-powered offense will take a step back after leading the nation for two consecutive seasons.

**3** SMU will make strides toward its first bowl appearance since the NCAA death-penalty days of the mid-80s, thanks to June Jones' rebuilding project.

**4** Tulane will continue to find things difficult with its traditional offensive scheme while playing against five other West Division schools that like up-tempo football.

## ASCENDING

**SOUTHERN MISS** The Golden Eagles grasped Larry Fedora's uptempo offense and won their final five games last season. Plus, the defense turned fierce in the closing weeks.

## DESCENDING

**RICE** Two bowl appearances in three years have been inspiring, but a depleted roster may mean the Owls face a rebuilding season in 2009.

Clint Bowyer, Sprint Cup driver of the No. 33 Chevrolet, with his 1949 Mercury and matching 2009 Harley-Davidson.

**illustrated**

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C-USA EAST PRESEASON RANK

# 1 EAST CAROLINA PIRATES

Entering his fifth season at ECU, Skip Holtz's father, Hall-of-Fame coach Lou Holtz, once shared wise words with one of his many football teams: "If what you did yesterday seems big to you, it means you haven't accomplished anything today."

Holtz is making sure his Pirates understand the meaning of that sentence.

Celebrating last year's C-USA championship is complete, and the Pirates are in search of more hardware for the trophy case.

"You can't be satisfied with where you are," Holtz says. "Both in football and life, you've never arrived. As soon as you think you have, you're knocked down again."

Things are unfolding for another successful season as ECU returns eight starters on offense, another eight on defense and all of its special-teams members from last year's 9-5 squad.

Quarterback Patrick Pinkney (2,675 passing yards, 13 TDs) has matured in the past two seasons, and will be a vital member of the Pirates' offense.

"Being experienced at the quarterback position, especially with the development of the spread offense, is really big," Holtz says. "It helps having a guy that led this football team and played the way he did in big games. That experience and leadership is invaluable."

Brandon Jackson, a transfer from Kentucky, has impressed coaches and could make a case for the vacated running-back spot. Seniors J.R. Rogers and Dominique Lindsay are competing there as well.

The wide-receiver corps was shaken up last season when Jamar Bryant was suspended for breaking team rules and Dwayne Harris suffered a season-ending broken foot. The losses did allow playing time for Alex Taylor and Joe Womack. All are expected back in 2009.

The Pirates finished among C-USA's top three in 12 defensive categories, including league-best marks in scoring defense, total defense and red-zone defense.

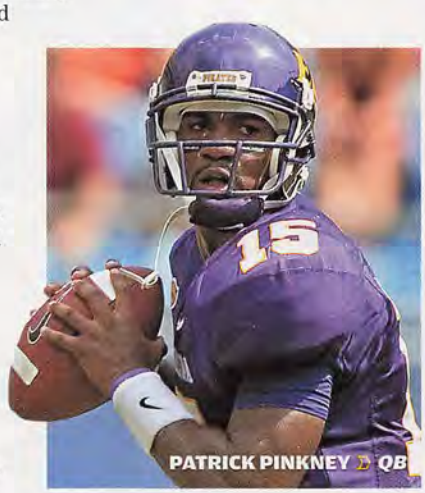
"The defense did a phenomenal job, when you consider how many injuries that we had on the offensive side of the ball last year," Holtz says.

An experienced line is highlighted by end C.J. Wilson, who had 10.5 sacks last season. Tackles Linval Joseph and Jay Ross will provide key support.

The linebackers are solid, as leading tackler Nick Johnson (102 stops) returns at middle linebacker. Outside linebacker Jeremy Chambliss had 60 tackles in 2008. Chris Mattocks will get the nod on the other side.

Free safety Van Eskridge had 97 tackles and four interceptions last season and will patrol the middle. Devon Wallace and Derek Blacknail are competing at strong safety, and starting cornerbacks Travis Simmons and Dekota Marshall return as well.

"There's a lot of name recognition on defense, but we have to develop the younger guys and have them pick up their games for us to have a quality year," Holtz says.



PATRICK PINKNEY ▷ QB

## THE NEXT BIG THING

**GIAVANNI RUFFIN, RB**

The talented Ruffin is a junior-college transfer who could compete for playing time right away.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Appalachian State | |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| S.12 | @WEST VIRGINIA | 24-3 |
| The Mountaineers will be looking for revenge after ECU captured a 24-3 home victory in 2008. | | |
| S.19 | @NORTH CAROLINA | |
| S.26 | UCF | 13-10 (OT) |
| 0.3 | @MARSHALL | 19-16 (OT) |
| 0.10 | @SMU | |
| 0.17 | Rice | |
| 0.27 | @MEMPHIS | 30-10 |
| N.5 | Virginia Tech | 27-22 |
| N.15 | @TULSA | 27-24 |
| N.21 | UAB | 17-13 |
| N.28 | Southern Miss | 3-21 |

**BOWL PROJECTION**
GMAC BOWL

LOWER TIER BOWL

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE B+

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Battle-tested, veteran team should know how to handle success.
- Defense could not only be one of league's best, but nation's as well.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-5
**C-USA:** 6-2
*(lost to Kentucky in the Liberty Bowl, 25-19)*

**Coach:** Skip Holtz
5th year (29-22)
**Career record:** 29-22 (FBS)
**Offensive coordinator:**
Todd Fitch (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Greg Hudson (5th year)

**Stadium:** Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium (43,000)
**Tickets:** 800-DIAL-ECU
**Site:** Greenville, N.C.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.ecupirates.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 15 | Patrick Pinkney (6-0, 198, Sr.) |
| RB | 7 | Brandon Jackson (5-10, 195, So.) |
| LOT | 64 | Travis Melvin (6-6, 291, Jr.) |
| LOG | 74 | Terence Campbell (6-5, 320, Sr.) |
| C | 54 | Sean Allen (6-3, 307, Sr.) |
| ROG | 75 | Cory Dowless (6-5, 287, Jr.) |
| ROT | 66 | D.J. Scott (6-6, 320, Jr.) |
| TE | 45 | Kevin Gidrey (6-2, 260, Jr.) |
| WR | 82 | Joe Womack (6-1, 195, So.) |
| WR | 10 | Jamar Bryant (6-2, 208, Sr.) |
| WR | 17 | Dwayne Harris (6-0, 198, Jr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 46 | A.J. Johnson (6-2, 256, Jr.) |
| LDT | 90 | Jay Ross (6-3, 300, Sr.) |
| RDT | 97 | Linval Joseph (6-6, 285, Jr.) |
| RDE | 95 | C.J. Wilson (6-4, 271, Sr.) |
| SLB | 19 | Chris Mattocks (6-0, 210, Sr.) |
| MLB | 44 | Nick Johnson (6-1, 215, Sr.) |
| WLB | 49 | Jeremy Chambliss (6-0, 227, Jr.) |
| LCB | 23 | Dekota Marshall (6-1, 195, Jr.) |
| RCB | 13 | Travis Simmons (5-10, 179, Jr.) |
| FS | 4 | Van Eskridge (6-0, 200, Sr.) |
| SS | 26 | Derek Blacknall (5-11, 190, So.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 30 | Ben Hartman (5-11, 210, Jr.) |
| P | 42 | Matt Dodge (6-2, 220, Sr.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 Reese Wiggins**
*WR, 5-10, 181*
Wiggins is a crisp route-runner with sure hands whose polish and consistency will be a welcome addition to the roster.

**2 Michael Dobson**
*S, 6-0, 185*
Dobson rushed for more than 1,700 yards at running back as a senior last year, but he projects as a safety in college.

**3 Giavanni Ruffin**
*RB, 6-1, 210*
Ruffin is a big power back with an added dimension of being a good receiver out of the backfield.

**4 Will Simmons**
*G, 6-5, 322*
Simmons has great size and was a four-year starter for his high school team.

**5 Justin Jones**
*TE, 6-6, 234*
Jones is a massive tight-end prospect who also starred on defense but could project as an offensive tackle.

CHRIS KEANE / ICON SMI

# SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI GOLDEN EAGLES

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Alcorn State | |
| S.12 | UCF | 17-6 |
| S.19 | Virginia | |
| S.26 | @KANSAS | |
| O.1 | @UAB | 70-14 |
| O.10 | @LOUISVILLE | |
| O.17 | Memphis | 30-36 |
| O.24 | Tulane | |
| O.31 | @HOUSTON | |
| N.14 | @MARSHALL | 27-34 |
| N.21 | Tulsa | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.28 @EAST CAROLINA** **21-3**

The Golden Eagles soldified thier late-season turnaround by thumping the Pirates. East Carolina will be looking for revenge and the winner will likely take the East Division crown.

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL

» ST. PETERSBURG BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

» Southern Miss bought into Fedora's system quickly, which is a plus.

» Austin Davis excelled in Year 1 of learning the no-huddle system, and should be better.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 12 | Austin Davis (6-2, 206, So.) |
| FB | 40 | Josh Hurd (6-0, 220, Jr.) |
| RB | 25 | Damion Fletcher (5-10, 177, Sr.) |
| LOT | 73 | Kyle Burkhart (6-5, 275, Sr.) |
| LOG | 69 | Micah Brown (6-2, 287, Sr.) |
| C | 59 | Cameron Zipp (6-1, 297, Jr.) |
| ROG | 71 | Ryan Hebert (6-5, 310, Sr.) |
| ROT | 72 | Calvin Wilson (6-6, 353, Sr.) |
| TE | 19 | Jonathan Massey (6-3, 251, Jr.) |
| WR | 5 | DeAndre Brown (6-6, 228, So.) |
| WR | 6 | Freddie Parham (6-0, 172, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DE | 91 | Deddrick Jones (6-3, 242, So.) |
| NT | 95 | Anthony Gray (6-0, 301, Jr.) |
| DT | 99 | Rolando Barragan (6-3, 295, Sr.) |
| DE | 45 | Roshaad Byrd (6-3, 247, Jr.) |
| SLB | 32 | Martez Smith (6-0, 211, Jr.) |
| MLB | 42 | Korey Williams (6-2, 228, So.) |
| WLB | 56 | Ronnie Thornton (6-3, 230, Fr.) |
| CB | 12 | Andre Watson (5-10, 180, Sr.) |
| CB | 20 | C.J. Bailey (5-10, 189, Jr.) |
| SS | 8 | Justin Wilson (5-11, 187, Jr.) |
| FS | 18 | Eddie Hicks (6-2, 183, Sr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 80 | Daniel Hrapmann (5-9, 152, So.) |
| P | 3 | Bret Jefcoat (6-1, 200, Fr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 7-6
**C-USA:** 4-4
*(beat Troy in the New Orleans Bowl in overtime, 30-27)*

**Coach:** Larry Fedora
2nd year (7-6)
**Career record:** 7-6
**Offensive coordinator:**
Darrell Wyatt (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Todd Bradford (2nd year)

**Stadium:** M.M. Roberts Stadium (33,000)
**Tickets:** 800-844-TICK
**Site:** Hattiesburg
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.southernmiss.com

ALBERT PENA / CAL SPORT MEDIA

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

"Life is short. Go no-huddle."

Southern Miss coach Larry Fedora showed he's just as quick on Twitter as he is running his no-huddle offense, writing those words during spring drills.

Nothing is slow in Hattiesburg these days—the offense is at full speed, the defense is at high intensity and the fans anxiously await the 2009 season.

"Our expectations are to win every game that we play," Fedora says. "That's what we expect to do. That's the goal that the guys have set and we feel like they're attainable. If we play like we're capable of playing and stay healthy, we can do those things."

Despite a 7-6 rookie campaign, Fedora took the Eagles on a five-game winning streak into the offseason, where they made their seventh consecutive bowl appearance (New Orleans Bowl). Now Southern Miss joins only Florida State, Florida and Virginia Tech as teams that have strung together 15 or more straight winning campaigns.

"The team got a lot of momentum and the fans got a lot of momentum," Fedora says. "It carried over into spring football and, hopefully, into next season."

How excited were fans during Year 1 of the Fedora era? Southern Miss set attendance records, despite losing four of its six home contests.

Offense helped fill the seats, as the team broke 36 school records and tied six more.

"We're going to continue to do the same things and try to build off last year," Fedora says. "I feel like players have a better understanding of what we're trying to accomplish this spring."

Quarterback Austin Davis threw for 3,128 yards and 23 touchdowns while grasping the no-huddle spread attack.

"In this system, he did more as a first-year quarterback than any quarterback I have had," says Fedora of the sophomore. "We're looking on improving the finer parts of the game and making sure he understands how to manage the game in each situation."

His primary receiver, DeAndre Brown, led the nation's freshmen in receiving yards (1,117) and touchdowns (12). Brown suffered a broken leg in the New Orleans Bowl, but Fedora says he may be available for the season's start.

The running game is anchored by Damion Fletcher, who led C-USA in rushing (1,313 yards) last season.

The Southern Miss defense looked like its old self late in 2008. During its season-ending five-game win streak, the Golden Eagles gave up an average of 12.4 points per contest.

"Our young players grew up and made plays," Fedora says.

Eight starting defenders come back for Southern Miss, including Anthony Gray and Deddrick Jones on the line.

Martez Smith and Roshaad Byrd lead the linebackers, who hope to build on last year's solid campaign.

The secondary returns an experienced crew, led by safeties Eddie Hicks (4 INTs) and Justin Wilson (4). Cornerbacks Andre Watson and C.J. Bailey are also back.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Kendrick Hardy**
*RB, 6-0, 210*
Hardy's signing was big for Southern Miss, which beat the likes of some SEC schools for his signature.

**2 — Justin Jordan**
*WR, 5-11, 190*
Jordan will be a talented and much-needed complement to DeAndre Brown on the outside.

**3 — Ben Schoenberger**
*OT, 6-5, 290*
A tough and physical prospect, Schoenberger should be able to contribute immediately on the offensive line.

**4 — Jacoby Bell**
*TE, 6-3, 210*
Bell is a versatile athlete who could be used as an outside linebacker, tight end, fullback or defensive end.

**5 — Tracey Lampley**
*RB, 5-9, 170*
With his athleticism and ability to make plays in space, Lampley is a perfect fit for the Golden Eagles' offense.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***JUSTIN JORDAN, WR***

The junior-college wide receiver from Blinn (Texas) College should help Southern Miss' passing game purr.

# 3 MEMPHIS TIGERS

Tommy West has built a football program that consistently advances to postseason play.

But now it's time for the next step—playing in the team's hometown Liberty Bowl, which is reserved for the C-USA champion.

"[Bowls] were our goal when we started because of the situation where we hadn't been a consistent bowl team," West says. "Now we're trying to move this program to where we can contend for a championship and get into the Conference USA championship game."

But the team is young.

Quarterback Arkelon Hall started 11 games last year and enters fall camp fighting for his job with Brett Toney, Byron Ingram and Tyler Bass.

Whoever wins will have two of the league's top wide receivers at his disposal in Duke Calhoun and Carlos Singleton. Calhoun has caught a pass in 37 consecutive games, the third-longest active streak in the nation. Singleton, one of the country's tallest wideouts at 6-8, has tied a school record with 19 touchdowns.

Also returning is tailback Curtis Steele (1,223 rushing yards), the first Tiger since DeAngelo Williams in 2005 to top 1,000 yards in a season.

"We haven't had a good enough running game to compete for the championship since [Williams]," West says. "We have that back with [Steele]."

Linemen Dominik Riley, Ronald Leary and Malcom Rawls are all back to pave the way for Steele.

Returning starting linebackers Greg Jackson, Winston Bowens and Jeremy Longstreet will anchor the defense. Safety Alton Starr also comes back after leading the team with 90 tackles last season.

Kicker Matt Reagan highlights the special teams.

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL
» TEXAS BOWL

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| A.30 | Ole Miss | 24-41 |
| The nationally televised Sunday game pits the Tigers against a quality SEC opponent, and an upset could be an early springboard to 2009 success. | | |
| S.12 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE | |
| S.19 | Tennessee-Martin | |
| S.26 | Marshall | 16-17 |
| O.3 | @UCF | 21-28 |
| O.10 | UTEP | |
| O.17 | @SOUTHERN MISS | 36-30 |
| O.27 | East Carolina | 10-30 |
| N.7 | @TENNESSEE | |
| N.14 | UAB | 33-30 |
| N.21 | @HOUSTON | |
| N.28 | @TULSA | |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 6-7
**C-USA:** 4-4
*(lost to South Florida in the St. Petersburg Bowl, 41-14)*

**Coach:** Tommy West
9th year (47-51)
**Career record:** 82-86
**Offensive coordinator:**
Clay Helton (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Kenny Ingram (1st year)

**Stadium:** Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium (62,380)
**Tickets:** 901-678-2331
**Site:** Memphis
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.gotigersgo.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 8 | Arkelon Hall (6-3, 225, Sr) |
| RB | 26 | Curtis Steele (6-0, 185, So.) |
| LOT | 75 | Ronald Leary (6-4, 313, So.) |
| LOG | 61 | Michael Antonescu (6-4, 290, So.) |
| C | 64 | Dominik Riley (6-4, 315, Jr.) |
| ROG | 77 | Malcom Rawls (6-5, 310, Sr.) |
| ROT | 66 | Brad Paul (6-3, 290, Jr.) |
| TE | 81 | Deven Onarheim (6-7, 255, Jr.) |
| WR | 89 | Carlos Singleton (6-8, 220, Sr.) |
| WR | 1 | Cam Baker (6-0, 170,So.) |
| WR | 22 | Duke Calhoun (6-4, 200, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 96 | Jada Brown (6-2, 265, Jr.) |
| NG | 76 | Charlie Bryant (6-6, 300, Jr.) |
| DT | 97 | Steven Turner (6-3, 270, Sr.) |
| RDE | 94 | Greg Terrell (6-4, 255, Sr.) |
| SLB | 28 | Jeremy Longstreet (6-1, 205, Jr.) |
| MLB | 50 | Winston Bowens (6-0, 250, Jr.) |
| WLB | 59 | Greg Jackson (6-2, 212, Sr.) |
| LCB | 5 | D.A. Griffin (5-11, 185 Jr.) |
| RCB | 16 | Deante' Lamar (5-9, 180 Sr.) |
| FS | 7 | Alton Starr (6-2, 195, Sr.) |
| SS | 4 | Darius Davis (6-0, 190, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 43 | Matt Reagan (6-1, 210, Sr.) |
| P | 43 | Matt Reagan (6-1, 210, Sr.) |

# 4 CENTRAL FLORIDA KNIGHTS

George O'Leary is a seasoned coach, so it wasn't hard for him to find a point of emphasis for the 2009 UCF football program.

"We played well enough defensively to win a lot of games last season, but the offense just didn't get it done," O'Leary says.

The Knights finished last nationally in total offense (229.5 yards per game) and at the bottom of the conference (16.6 points per game) in scoring offense last year.

It's difficult to win in the C-USA with those numbers, so improvement will be critical.

O'Leary is banking that experience will help an offense that returns 10 starters, despite losing all-conference lineman Patrick Brown.

Starting quarterback Rob Calabrese will be depended on heavily, O'Leary says.

Playmakers at Calabrese's disposal include running back Brynn Harvey (519 yards) and the team's top wide receivers Kamar Aiken and Rocky Ross, who has recovered from injury. A.J. Guyton and Brian Watters should add depth at the receiver position.

Defense is where this team will hang its hat.

The unit was second in C-USA in total defense (333.8 ypg) and scoring defense (24.1 ppg) in 2008, but must replace its entire secondary.

Team leaders include linebacker Lawrence Young and safety Derrick Hallman.

Linemen Travis Timmons, Bruce Miller and Torrell Troup also anchor a unit that led C-USA in rushing defense last year.

The secondary graduated many starters, but O'Leary says it is not lacking experience.

"We have kids that have been waiting for their turn," O'Leary says. "A lot of the kids saw playing time of some form, be it a nickel or dime (package) and in special teams. It's now just about getting the right four guys out there."

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Samford | |
| S.12 | @SOUTHERN MISS | 6-17 |
| S.19 | Buffalo | |
| S.26 | @EAST CAROLINA | 10-13 (OT) |
| O.3 | Memphis | 28-21 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| O.17 | Miami (FL) | 14-20 |
| O'Leary has said for C-USA to gain national respect, it needs to win nonconference games against marquee opponents. This is a chance for UCF to get a home victory. | | |
| O.24 | @RICE | |
| N.1 | Marshall | 30-14 |
| N.7 | @TEXAS | |
| N.14 | Houston | |
| N.21 | Tulane | |
| N.28 | @UAB | 0-15 |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 4-8
**C-USA:** 3-5

**Coach:** George O'Leary
5th year (26-36)
**Career record:** 78-69
**Offensive coordinator:**
Charlie Taaffe (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Dave Huxtable (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Bright House Networks Stadium (45,323)
**Tickets:** 407-823-1000
**Site:** Orlando
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.ucfathletics.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 4 | Rob Calabrese (6-2, 215, So.) |
| FB | 24 | Brendan Kelly (6-3, 225, Fr.) |
| RB | 34 | Brynn Harvey (6-1, 202, So.) |
| LOT | 77 | Nick Pieschel (6-7, 284, So.) |
| LOG | 68 | Theo Goins (6-4, 320, Fr.) |
| C | 73 | Ian Bustillo (6-2, 302, Sr.) |
| ROG | 70 | Steven Robinson (6-3, 314, Fr.) |
| ROT | 76 | Jah Reid (6-7, 310, Jr.) |
| TE | 88 | Adam Nissley (6-6, 254, So.) |
| WR | 5 | Rocky Ross (6-2, 202, Sr.) |
| WR | 81 | Kamar Aiken (6-2, 211, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 48 | David Williams (6-2, 242, Jr.) |
| LDT | 95 | Travis Timmons (6-4, 285, Sr.) |
| RDT | 98 | Torrell Troup (6-3, 315, Sr.) |
| RDE | 49 | Bruce Miller (6-2, 258, Jr.) |
| SLB | 59 | Cory Hogue (6-1, 224, Sr.) |
| MLB | 57 | Lawrence Young (6-0, 205, Jr.) |
| WLB | 56 | Jordan Richards (6-2, 220, Sr.) |
| LCB | 22 | Emery Allen (5-9, 176, Sr.) |
| RCB | 21 | Darin Baldwin (5-11, 200, Jr.) |
| FS | 40 | Reggie Wearns (6-0, 191, Jr.) |
| SS | 38 | Derrick Hallman (6-0, 213, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 16 | Nick Cattoi (6-5, 209, So.) |
| P | 41 | Bale Clingan (6-3, 228, Jr.) |

# MARSHALL THUNDERING HERD 5

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Southern Illinois | |
| S.12 | @VIRGINIA TECH | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.19 Bowling Green**

Marshall can get a good read on its season in Week 3 when Bowling Green visits Huntington, W. Va.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.26 | @MEMPHIS | 17-16 |
| O.3 | East Carolina | 16-19 (OT) |
| O.10 | @TULANE | |
| O.17 | @WEST VIRGINIA | 3-27 |
| O.24 | UAB | 21-23 |
| N.1 | @UCF | 14-30 |
| N.14 | Southern Miss | 34-27 |
| N.21 | SMU | |
| N.28 | @UTEP | |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 4-8
**C-USA:** 3-5

**Coach:** Mark Snyder
5th year (16-31)
**Career record:** 16-31
**Offensive coordinator:**
John Shannon (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Rick Minter (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Joan C. Edwards Stadium (38,019)
**Tickets:** 800-THE-HERD
**Site:** Huntington, W. Va.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.herdzone.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 12 | Brian Anderson (6-3, 217, Jr.) |
| RB | 5 | Darius Marshall (5-10, 189, Jr.) |
| LOT | 73 | Ryan Tillman (6-5, 282, So.) |
| LOG | 71 | Chad Schofield (6-4, 316, Jr.) |
| C | 64 | John Bruhin (6-5, 303, So.) |
| ROG | 76 | Jimmy Rogers (6-4, 302, Sr.) |
| ROT | 79 | Daniel Baldridge (6-9, 310, Sr.) |
| TE | 85 | Cody Slate (6-4, 220, Sr.) |
| WR | 23 | Bryant Milligan (6-1, 197, Jr.) |
| WR | 80 | Courtney Edmonson (6-0, 187, Jr.) |
| WR | 87 | Tavaris Thompson (6-2, 198, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 96 | Albert McClellan (6-2, 252, Sr.) |
| LDT | 98 | Delvin Johnson (6-3, 296, Jr.) |
| RDT | 91 | Johnny Jones (6-5, 288, Jr.) |
| RDE | 90 | Michael Janac (6-4, 278, Jr.) |
| SLB | 30 | Mario Harvey (6-0, 244, Sr.) |
| MLB | 35 | Kellen Harris (6-3, 223, So.) |
| WLB | 8 | Brandon Burns (6-4, 205, Sr.) |
| LCB | 17 | DeQuan Bembry (5-10, 173, So.) |
| RCB | 13 | T.J. Drakeford (5-11, 184, So.) |
| FS | 31 | Omar Brown (5-10, 178, So.) |
| SS | 20 | Ashton Hall (5-10, 193, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 92 | Craig Ratanamorn (6-3, 187, Sr.) |
| P | 41 | Kase Whitehead (5-10, 181, So.) |

Marshall hasn't had a winning season since entering C-USA in 2005.

Fifth-year coach Mark Snyder is looking for a turnaround this season, and may have his deepest squad since the program left the Mid-American Conference.

There is one important question entering 2008: Who will guide the Thundering Herd at quarterback? It's an answer that will carry Marshall's hopes a long way.

Last year's starter, Mark Cann, is coming off a rough season, and Brian Anderson looked good in the season finale against Tulsa. Mix in juco transfers Press Taylor and Jacob Laudenslayer, and there is serious competition to take snaps in the fall.

The new quarterback will work alongside tight end Cody Slate, an All-America candidate, and running back Darius Marshall (1,095 rushing yards).

Despite the loss of Darius Passmore, the Thundering Herd return several veterans in the receiving corps, including Courtney Edmonson and Bryant Milligan.

The Marshall defense has eight starters and seven of its top 10 tacklers back.

First-team All-C-USA end Albert McClellan returns to anchor a line that brings back four starters. Senior Mario Harvey, who had a team-high 107 tackles last season, leads the linebackers.

DeQuan Bembry and T.J. Drakeford return at cornerback, while Ashton Hall and Omar Brown will look to replace seniors C.J. Spillman and Aaron Johnson in the safety spots.

The depth of the defensive line will be a key to success, and Marshall is three-deep at all four positions.

Marshall's special teams return intact, with two kickers back in Craig Ratanamorn and Tyler Warner, and punter Kase Whitehead also returns ready to shine this fall.

# UAB BLAZERS 6

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Rice | |
| S.12 | SMU | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.19 @TROY**

A win over the Trojans would mean much more for the Blazers than the other way around. It would be a big confidence booster.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.26 | @TEXAS A&M | |
| O.1 | Southern Miss | 14-70 |
| O.17 | @OLE MISS | |
| O.24 | @MARSHALL | 23-21 |
| O.31 | @UTEP | |
| N.7 | Florida Atlantic | 34-49 |
| N.14 | @MEMPHIS | 30-33 |
| N.21 | @EAST CAROLINA | 13-17 |
| N.28 | UCF | 15-0 |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 4-8
**C-USA:** 3-5

**Coach:** Neil Callaway
3rd year (6-18)
**Career record:** 6-18
**Offensive coordinator:**
Kim Helton (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Eric Schumann (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Legion Field (72,000)
**Tickets:** 205-975-UAB1
**Site:** Birmingham, Ala.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.uabsports.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 5 | Joe Webb (6-4, 220, Sr.) |
| RB | 1 | Rashaud Slaughter (5-9, 185, Sr.) |
| LOT | 71 | Matt McCants (6-7, 295, So.) |
| LOG | 75 | Daniel Seahorn (6-5, 295, Sr.) |
| C | 53 | Jake Seitz (6-2, 290, Sr.) |
| ROG | 68 | Adam Hollifield (6-3, 300, Jr.) |
| ROT | 55 | Terence Edge (6-3, 295, Jr.) |
| TE | 84 | Zach Lankford (6-4, 250, Sr.) |
| WR | 11 | Mario Wright (6-5, 205, Jr.) |
| WR | 80 | Mark Ferrell (6-2, 220, Sr.) |
| WR | 7 | Frantrell Forrest (6-2, 195, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 87 | Bryant Turner (6-2, 260, Jr.) |
| LDT | 97 | D.J. Reese (6-4, 280, Jr.) |
| NT | 50 | David Decordova (6-2, 280, Sr.) |
| RDE | 92 | Anthony Barnes (6-3, 255, Sr.) |
| SLB | 48 | Drew Luker (6-3, 195, So.) |
| MLB | 34 | Daniel White (6-2, 220, Fr.) |
| WLB | 13 | Keon Harris (5-11, 205, Jr.) |
| CB | 4 | Brandon Carlisle (5-10, 185, Sr.) |
| CB | 29 | Terrell Springs (5-9, 175, So.) |
| FS | 32 | Hiram Atwater (6-0, 200, Jr.) |
| SS | 31 | Chase Daniel (6-3, 190, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 37 | Trey Ragland (5-11, 175, So.) |
| P | 37 | Trey Ragland (5-11, 175, So.) |

Third-year coach Neil Callaway faces a numbers crunch each year at UAB.

The Blazers had less than 68 scholarship players in the last two seasons, but that number will swell to the low 80s for 2009, which should finally level the playing field for UAB.

The Blazers took some beatings in 2008, finishing 4-8. But a strong three-week finish that included road wins at Tulane and UCF and a narrow 17-13 loss to eventual C-USA champion East Carolina gave the program hope.

"We can build off those games, but the bottom line is that we were 4-8 and that's not acceptable," Callaway says. "We have to make sure we get off to a good start and get better as we go along."

Any team success begins with quarterback Joe Webb, who had 21 touchdowns in '08.

"Joe is a tremendous athlete and a catalyst of our football team," Callaway says. "But he still has some work to do. When you look at our production, he was a big part of it from an offensive standpoint. But at the same time, he was learning (as a first-year starter)."

Webb will be joined by an offense that returns everyone, including a seasoned line that will try to open holes for running back Rashaud Slaughter.

Wide receivers Frantrell Forrest, Mark Ferrell and Mario Wright are expected to be Webb's top targets.

UAB's defense ranked 106th nationally but improved by the end of the season, allowing only 41 total points in its last three contests.

The Blazers will be led by ends Anthony Barnes and Bryant Turner, safety Chase Daniel and cornerbacks Terrell Springs and Brandon Carlisle.

"We've got depth and experience in the defensive line and at cornerback, but we're still unsure at the linebacker and safety spots," Callaway says. "We'll still be much improved over last year."

C-USA WEST PRESEASON RANK

# 1 HOUSTON COUGARS

There were plenty of reasons to celebrate coach Kevin Sumlin's first season at Houston.

The Cougars posted their first bowl victory in 28 years when they beat Air Force in the Armed Forces Bowl. Houston overcame a 1-3 start with seven wins in its last nine contests, including a 70-30 victory over rival Tulsa.

All that is great, but there is something missing—a C-USA championship.

"We have a lot we still want to accomplish," says Sumlin, who was awarded a new five-year contact at the end of last season. "I think we experienced some success, but obviously we didn't reach all of our goals last year. "Because of that, we have a lot of motivation."

The Cougars will be one of the favorites to win the conference this season because of their offensive firepower.

It starts with quarterback Case Keenum, a junior who was named the league's 2008 Offensive Player of the Year. Last season, Keenum threw for more than 300 yards in every game except the bowl contest and ended with 5,020 yards. He also tossed 44 touchdowns against only 11 interceptions.

There are plenty of weapons at Keenum's disposal, playmakers that will cause opposing defensive coordinators headaches all season long.

Bryce Beall broke the school's freshman rushing record and finished third in C-USA with 1,247 rushing yards last season.

Wideouts Tyron Carrier and Patrick Edwards also had outstanding rookie campaigns. Carrier, arguably C-USA's fastest wide receiver, led all of the nation's freshmen with 80 receptions. An NCAA provisional qualifier in track and field, Carrier also piled up 1,026 yards and nine touchdowns.

Edwards had 46 catches for 634 yards in just eight games before suffering a broken leg when his right shin hit a cart in the back of the end zone during the Marshall game.

Sumlin says Edwards went through non-contact drills during spring football, and his recovery was going ahead of schedule.

Chaz Rodriguez (40 receptions, 481 yards) also returns for Houston, while Beall caught 34 passes for 496 yards out of the backfield last season.

The offensive line is looking for new leaders after having an injury-plagued 2008. That may have been a blessing in disguise, Sumlin says, because it allowed backups to gain game experience. Look for Carl Barnett, Matt Hart and junior-college transfer Roy Watts to provide depth up front.

Graduation could take a toll on the Cougars' defense. The line lost four players, including 2008 C-USA Defensive Player of the Year Phillip Hunt.

The linebacker corps is solid, with leading tackler Marcus McGraw (103 stops) returning. Joining him are C.J. Cavness and Matt Nicholson.

Cornerback Brandon Brinkley (74 tackles, 4 INTs) will anchor the secondary.

Carson Blackmon had a solid spring at the other corner.

CASE KEENUM ▸ QB

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***ROY WATTS, OT***

Offensive linemen rarely get noticed, but this junior-college transfer will be an important cog to keep Houston's high-powered offense rolling.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5 **C-USA:** 6-2
*(beat Air Force in the Armed Forces Bowl, 34-28)*

**Coach:** Kevin Sumlin
2nd year (8-5)
**Career record:** 8-5
**Offensive coordinators:**
Dana Holgrosen (2nd year)
Jason Phillips (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
John Skladany (2nd year)

**Stadium:** John O'Quinn Field at Robertson Stadium (32,000)
**Tickets:** 877-COUGAR-5
**Site:** Houston
**Official athletic Web site:**
uhcougars.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Northwestern State | |
| S.12 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | 37-56 |
| S.26 | Texas Tech | |
| 0.3 | @UTEP | 42-37 |
| 0.10 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | |
| 0.17 | @TULANE | 42-14 |
| 0.24 | SMU | 44-38 |
| 0.31 | Southern Miss | |
| N.7 | @TULSA | 70-30 |
| N.14 | @UCF | |
| N.21 | Memphis | |
| N.28 | Rice | 42-56 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.26 Texas Tech**

The scoreboard could get a workout, and Robertson Stadium should be rocking as an in-state Big 12 opponent comes to town.

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL

▸▸ NEW ORLEANS BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- High-powered offense means long weeks for opposing coordinators.
- Case Keenum's accuracy makes him a deadly quarterback, and he doesn't make mistakes.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 7 | Case Keenum (6-1, 210, Jr.) |
| RB | 25 | Bryce Beall (5-11, 205, So.) |
| LOT | 74 | Roy Watts (6-6, 300, Fr.) |
| LOG | 73 | Jordan Shoemaker (6-3, 275, So.) |
| C | 57 | Carl Barnett (6-2, 285, Sr.) |
| ROG | 70 | Chris Thompson (6-2, 295, So.) |
| ROT | 79 | Matt Hart (6-6, 310, Sr.) |
| TE | 8 | Chris Gilbert (5-8, 170, Sr.) |
| WR | 35 | Tyron Carrier (5-8, 162, So.) |
| WR | 82 | Chaz Rodriguez (6-2, 185, Jr.) |
| WR | 83 | Patrick Edwards (5-9, 175, So.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 43 | Tyrell Graham (6-3, 225, Sr.) |
| NT | 97 | Isaiah Thompson (6-4, 295, So.) |
| DT | 54 | Nicholas Thurston (6-1, 255, Sr.) |
| RDE | 99 | Michael Ray (6-3, 250, So.) |
| SLB | 30 | Matt Nicholson (6-3, 225, Sr.) |
| MLB | 55 | Marcus McGraw (5-11, 220, So.) |
| WLB | 40 | C.J. Cavness (6-1, 220, Sr.) |
| LCB | 21 | Brandon Brinkley (6-0, 180, Sr.) |
| RCB | 22 | Loyce Means (5-10, 175, Jr.) |
| FS | | Jacky Candy (5-11, 205, Jr.) |
| SS | 23 | Carson Blackmon (5-11, 185, Sr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 16 | Jordan Mannisto (6-1, 175, So.) |
| P | 80 | Chase Turner (6-4, 229, Sr.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 Roy Watts**
*OT, 6-6, 300*
Watts was a steal for Houston, as he was one of the most highly sought-after junior-college linemen in the nation.

**2 Jacky Candy**
*CB, 5-11, 195*
Candy has the look of a safety or linebacker because of his physically imposing frame.

**3 A.J. Dugat**
*WR, 6-0, 203*
Dugat had a masterful close to his high school career, making 112 catches for 1,755 yards and 21 touchdowns.

**4 Rademon Scypion**
*DE, 6-4, 213*
Scypion has all the physical tools you want in a defensive end and should be a star in C-USA.

**5 George Bamfo**
*LB, 5-11, 200*
Bamfo's stock skyrocketed once his senior film began to be distributed. The Cougars pulled in a good one here.

WILF THORNE

# TULSA GOLDEN HURRICANE 2

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.4 | @TULANE | 56-7 |
| S.12 | @NEW MEXICO | 56-14 |
| S.19 | @OKLAHOMA | |
| S.26 | Sam Houston State | |
| 0.3 | @RICE | 63-28 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **0.14** | **Boise State** | |
| These former WAC foes meet in a battle between two of the top non-BCS schools over the past two seasons. | | |
| 0.21 | @UTEP | 77-35 |
| 0.31 | SMU | 37-31 |
| N.7 | Houston | 30-70 |
| N.15 | East Carolina | 24-27 |
| N.21 | @SOUTHERN MISS | |
| N.28 | Memphis | |

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» LIBERTY BOWL
MIDDLE TIER BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» The team loses co-offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn and will introduce its third starting quarterback in as many seasons.
» The defense, which needs improvement, is being labeled as a "blue-collar" unit.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 15 | Jacob Bower (6-3, 242, Jr.) |
| RB | 23 | Jamad Williams (5-9, 212, Jr.) |
| LOT | 78 | Tyler Holmes (6-3, 306, So.) |
| LOG | 76 | Curt Puckett (6-4, 309, Sr.) |
| C | 72 | Clint Anderson (6-2, 272, So.) |
| ROG | 60 | Nick Gates (6-2, 270, Jr.) |
| ROT | 75 | Brandon Thomas (6-5, 274, So.) |
| TE | 86 | Jake Collums (6-4, 242, Sr.) |
| WR | 88 | Slick Shelley (6-4, 200, Sr.) |
| FL | 3 | Damaris Johnson (5-8, 170, So.) |
| SE | 1 | Trae Johnson (5-11, 180, Jr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 93 | Cory Dorris (6-4, 255, Fr.) |
| NT | 96 | Wilson Garrison (6-4, 283, Sr.) |
| RDE | 80 | Odrick Ray (6-3, 261, Jr.) |
| SLB | 8 | George Clinkscale (6-0, 238, Sr.) |
| MLB | 43 | Mike Bryan (6-3, 226, Sr.) |
| WLB | 40 | Tanner Antle (6-4, 225, Jr.) |
| BAN | 5 | DeAundre Brown (5-11, 195, So.) |
| CB | 18 | Jon Destin (6-0, 195, Sr.) |
| CB | 27 | Kenny D. Sims (5-11, 197, Sr.) |
| FS | 24 | Charles Davis (5-9, 180, Sr.) |
| SPUR | 6 | James Lockett (5-11, 203, Sr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 30 | Matt Hulse (5-11, 188, So.) |
| P | 35 | Michael Such (6-2, 198, Jr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 11-3
**C-USA:** 7-1
*(beat Ball State in the GMAC Bowl, 45-13)*

**Coach:** Todd Graham
3rd year (21-7)
**Career record:** 28-13
**Offensive coordinator:**
Herb Hand (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinators:**
Keith Patterson (4th year)
Ron West (1st year)

**Stadium:** Skelly Field at H.A. Chapman Stadium (35,542)
**Tickets:** 918-613-GOTU
**Site:** Tulsa, Okla.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.tulsahurricane.com

J.P. WILSON / ICON SMI

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

Tulsa began the new millennium as a college football lightweight with one win in the 2001 and '02 seasons etched on its résumé.

It'll leave this decade as one of the non-BCS powers striving for league and bowl championships.

Tulsa has won 21 games in the past two years, including a school-record 11-win campaign in 2008. During that magical season, the Golden Hurricane won their first eight games and plunged into the Top 25 of the national polls and BCS rankings.

A 3-3 finish to the season, including a home loss in the C-USA Championship Game to East Carolina, has left a bitter taste in the program's mouth.

"We have to build on our 11-3 mark," third-year coach Todd Graham says. "Our goals are to get better fundamentally, mentally and get physically tougher. We want to win the Conference USA championship"

Tulsa's foundation has been its offense. The Hurricane led the nation in total offense during each of the past two seasons. Last year, they averaged 569.9 yards a contest, while scoring 47.2 points a game to rank second nationally.

The team's bread and butter will enter 2009 with a different look. Co-offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn, who shared duties with assistant Herb Hand, has left for Auburn.

Despite the loss, Graham promises no changes in Tulsa's offensive philosophy.

Tulsa will introduce its third starting quarterback in as many seasons. Junior Jacob Bower played sparingly in all 14 games last season, and will compete with Texas transfer G.J. Kinne and high school phenom Shavodrick Beaver.

The Hurricane also need to replace running back Tarrion Adams, the school's career rushing leader. Though Jamad Williams is the front-runner, Charles Clay, who spent his first two seasons at fullback, will get a chance to win the job.

Tulsa's no-huddle spread attack gets the football into the hands of many different wide receivers.

The Hurricane will return three players who had at least eight TDs in 2009—Damaris Johnson, Slick Shelley and Clay. Other receivers to watch include Trae Johnson, A.J. Whitmore and Jesse Meyer.

Graham has called his defense a "blue-collar" unit, and he expects better production out of a group that includes 13 seniors. The team made steady improvement last year, but Graham wants a championship-style defense.

"We're going to be faster and stronger than we've ever been," Graham says. "We want to be the No. 1 total defense in the conference and No. 1 scoring defense in the conference. To win a championship, you have to win it on defense."

Tulsa has to replace end Moton Hopkins and nose tackle Terrel Nemons on the defensive line, but look for Odrick Ray and Wilson Garrison, to fill those respective voids.

Mike Bryan, Tanner Antle and George Clinkscale all return at linebacker. Bryan is a workhorse and had 119 tackles in 2008.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Shavodrick Beaver**
*QB, 6-2, 179*
Beaver, a former Michigan commitment, was one of the most highly recruited players in the country.

**2 — Brian DeShane**
*G, 6-3, 290*
DeShane committed in January of his junior year and stuck to his word despite overtures from Big 12 schools.

**3 — Anthony Foster**
*WR, 5-8, 170*
Foster may play wide receiver or cornerback, and his instincts could make him the biggest playmaker in this class.

**4 — Ricky Johnson**
*WR, 6-2, 190*
In high school, Johnson played all over, including quarterback. In college, he'll project as a wide receiver.

**5 — LaQuentin Black**
*CB, 5-9, 175*
This junior-college transfer is a playmaker. During his senior year in high school, Black had 11 interceptions.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***ALEX SINGLETON, RB***

The true freshman from LaPlace, La., could contribute immediately at running back. He chose Tulsa over LSU.

# 3 UTEP MINERS

There isn't a secret formula of what UTEP needs to improve on the most in 2009.

The Miners must get better on defense if they want to compete for a Conference USA championship.

UTEP gave up 42 or more points in six of its seven losses last season, including 77 at Tulsa and 53 at East Carolina.

Sixth-year coach Mike Price said last year was an unexpected learning process for the squad, which installed a new defensive scheme and coaches.

"The players had to learn the defense and the new coaches had to learn who the players were," Price says. "Now the players know the defense and the coaches know the players better. We're looking forward [to the season]."

The Miners are hopeful for the return of safety Braxton Amy, who missed last year with a torn ACL. In 2007, he led the team with 112 tackles.

Others to watch include safety Da'Mon Cromartie-Smith and defensive end Robert Soleyjacks.

The offense will be anchored by junior quarterback Trevor Vittatoe, who has put up outstanding numbers in El Paso. Vittatoe, who played with torn ankle ligaments for much of last season, tossed a school-record 33 touchdowns. During his two-year career, he has thrown for 58 touchdowns against only 16 interceptions.

UTEP returns productive wide receivers in Jeff Moturi and Kris Adams. The pair combined for 23 touchdown grabs in 2008.

A running back needs to emerge. Many different players will get opportunities to grab the notice of coaches during fall camp, including Jason Williams, Donald Buckram, Vernon Frazier and Leilyon Myers.

Price wants to return the Miners to their first postseason appearance since the 2005 GMAC Bowl. It won't be easy.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Buffalo | 17-42 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.12 Kansas**

The Miners have an opportunity to capture a marquee victory in Week 2 when the Jayhawks visit the Sun Bowl.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.19 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | 33-34 |
| S.26 | @TEXAS | 13-42 |
| 0.3 | Houston | 37-42 |
| 0.10 | @MEMPHIS | |
| 0.21 | Tulsa | 35-77 |
| 0.31 | UAB | |
| N.7 | @TULANE | 24-21 |
| N.14 | @SOUTHERN METHODIST | 36-10 |
| N.21 | @RICE | 44-49 |
| N.28 | Marshall | |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7
**C-USA:** 4-4

**Coach:** Mike Price
6th year (30-30)
**Career record:** 159-152
**Offensive coordinators:**
Bob Connelly (2nd year) and Aaron Price (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Osia Lewis (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Sun Bowl (51,500)
**Tickets:** 915-747-6150
**Site:** El Paso, Texas
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.utepathletics.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 10 | Trevor Vittatoe (6-2, 220, Jr.) |
| TB | 3 | Donald Buckram (5-10, 190, Jr.) |
| LOT | 71 | Mike Aguayo (6-4, 300, Sr.) |
| LOG | 78 | Cameron Raschke (6-4, 320, Sr.) |
| C | 79 | Tanner Cullumber (6-4, 280, Jr.) |
| ROG | 74 | Rod Huntley (6-3, 315, Jr.) |
| ROT | 54 | Will Osolinsky (6-8, 280, Jr.) |
| TE | 86 | Jonny Moore (6-5, 250, Jr.) |
| WR | 6 | Jeff Moturi (6-0, 190, Sr.) |
| WR | 9 | Tufick Shadrawy (6-2, 195, Sr.) |
| WR | 2 | Kris Adams (6-3, 195, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 96 | Aaron King (6-4, 250, Sr.) |
| NT | 95 | Steve Riddick (5-11, 275, Sr.) |
| RDE | 13 | Robert Soleyjacks (6-5, 250, Jr.) |
| LLB | 42 | Greg Holleman (6-0, 215, So.) |
| MLB | 17 | Brian Wilkins (6-2, 245, Sr.) |
| RLB | 52 | Royzell Smith (6-1, 215, So.) |
| MNR | 1 | Clarence Ward (6-0, 190, Sr.) |
| LCB | 4 | Melvin Stephenson (5-10, 185, Sr.) |
| RCB | 47 | Cornelius Brown (6-0, 200, Sr.) |
| LS | 14 | Braxton Amy (6-0, 210, Jr.) |
| RS | 23 | Da'Mon Cromartie-Smith (6-2, 210, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PK | 22 | Logan Barrett (6-1, 175, Fr.) |
| P | 98 | Greg Hiett (6-5, 225, Sr.) |

# 4 SMU MUSTANGS

June Jones knew SMU's rebuilding project was not going to be an overnight success.

After guiding Hawaii to a BCS bowl in 2007, SMU went 1-11 last year, and the program has lost 21 of its last 22 games.

Jones still found reason for optimism. Four of the team's eight C-USA losses were by seven points or less. Meanwhile, valuable experience was gained by the younger players.

For those reasons, the veteran coach hasn't lowered his team's goals.

"We're still building what we need to build," Jones says. "Offensively, I saw a lot of improvement at running back and quarterback. Defensively, we're still trying to find our identity."

Quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell went from boy to man in a matter of months. The freshman threw for 24 touchdowns and 2,865 yards, but also had 23 interceptions in Jones' run-and-shoot offense.

"He showed a lot of improvement after having lived through that," Jones says.

Mitchell will have two good receivers to throw the ball to this season. Aldrick Robinson tied a school record with 11 touchdowns, while Emmanuel Sanders had six 100-yard receiving games. Zach Zimmerman will also be a factor.

The run game averaged 41.4 yards per contest in '08, and needs improvement to bring balance to the passing attack.

The defense will depend on a 3-4 scheme, using athleticism at linebacker to offset a lack of bodies on the line.

"We're going to get a little more speed on the field," Jones says. "The hardest thing to find when replenishing is defensive linemen. We found some good, young linebackers that can run."

SMU allowed 479.5 yards per contest last season, which ranked 118th nationally.

Pete Fleps had a team-high 106 stops in '08, while Justin Smart registered 74.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Stephen F. Austin | |
| S.12 | @UAB | |
| S.19 | @WASHINGTON STATE | |
| 0.3 | @TCU | 7-48 |
| 0.10 | East Carolina | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**0.17 Navy 7-34**

The Mustangs were embarrassed in a 34-7 loss at Navy last season, when wicked weather drowned the run-and-shoot offense. SMU will be looking for revenge.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0.24 | @HOUSTON | 38-44 |
| 0.31 | @TULSA | 31-37 |
| N.7 | Rice | 27-56 |
| N.14 | UTEP | 10-36 |
| N.21 | @MARSHALL | |
| N.28 | Tulane | 27-34 |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 1-11
**C-USA:** 0-8

**Coach:** June Jones
2nd year (1-11)
**Career record:** 77-52
**Offensive coordinator:**
Dan Morrison (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Tom Mason (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Gerald J. Ford Stadium (32,000)
**Tickets:** 214-SMU-GAME
**Site:** Dallas
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.smumustangs.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 16 | Bo Levi Mitchell (6-1, 201, Jr.) |
| RB | 8 | DeMyron Martin (6-2, 230, Sr.) |
| LOT | 70 | Kelvin Beachum (6-3, 270, Fr.) |
| LOG | 74 | Sean Lobo (6-3, 295, Sr.) |
| C | 51 | Mitch Enright (6-2, 275, Sr.) |
| ROG | 68 | Bryce Tennison (6-3, 298, Fr.) |
| ROT | 67 | Tommy Poynter (6-4, 275, So.) |
| WR | 32 | Josh Bryant (5-7, 170, Jr.) |
| WR | 17 | Emmanuel Sanders (6-1, 165, Jr.) |
| WR | 5 | Zach Zimmerman (6-1, 165, Jr.) |
| WR | 24 | Aldrick Robinson (5-10, 170, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 42 | Anthony Sowe (6-2, 215, Jr.) |
| NT | 99 | Serge Elizee (6-1, 300, Sr.) |
| DT | 94 | Patrick Handy (6-2, 250, Sr.) |
| RDE | 48 | Youri Yenga (6-2, 220, So.) |
| SLB | 27 | Will Bonilla (5-11, 205, Sr.) |
| MLB | 40 | Justin Smart (6-4, 225, Jr.) |
| WLB | 52 | Pete Fleps (6-2, 220 Jr.) |
| LCB | 12 | Derrius Bell (5-10, 165, So.) |
| RCB | 6 | Bryan McCann (6-0, 175, Jr.) |
| FS | 41 | Tyler Jones (6-1, 195, Jr.) |
| SS | 10 | Rock Dennis (5-10, 175, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 15 | Thomas Morstead (6-5, 215, Sr.) |
| P | 15 | Thomas Morstead (6-5, 215, Sr.) |

# RICE OWLS 5

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @UAB | |
| S.12 | @TEXAS TECH | |
| S.19 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| S.26 | Vanderbilt | 21-38 |
| This battle of private schools means a lot for the Owls and Conference USA, who both could use a victory against an SEC school. | | |
| 0.3 | Tulsa | 28-63 |
| 0.10 | Navy | |
| 0.17 | @EAST CAROLINA | |
| 0.24 | UCF | |
| N.7 | @SMU | 56-27 |
| N.14 | Tulane | 42-17 |
| N.21 | UTEP | 49-44 |
| N.28 | @HOUSTON | 56-42 |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 10-3
**C-USA:** 7-1
*(beat Western Michigan in the Texas Bowl, 38-14)*

**Coach:** Dave Bailiff
3rd year (13-12)
**Career record:** 13-12
**Offensive coordinator:**
Ed Zaunbrecher (1st year)
**Defensive coordinators:**
Chuck Driesbach (3rd year),
Craig Naivar (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Rice Stadium (70,000)
**Tickets:** 713-522-OWLS
**Site:** Houston
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.riceowls.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 17 | John Thomas Shepherd (6-1, 195, Jr.) |
| RB | 37 | Tyler Smith (5-8, 190, So.) |
| LOT | 56 | Scott Mitchell (6-4, 290, Jr.) |
| LOG | 66 | Jake Hicks (6-3, 265, So.) |
| C | 58 | Keshawn Carrington (6-3, 265, So.) |
| ROG | 71 | Davon Allen (6-2, 322, So.) |
| ROT | 64 | Tyler Parish (6-4, 280, So.) |
| WR | 80 | Corbin Smiter (6-2, 210, Sr.) |
| WR | 3 | Toren Dixon (6-2, 212, Sr.) |
| WR | 84 | Taylor Wardlow (6-6, 236, Sr.) |
| WR | 6 | Patrick Randolph (5-11, 170, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 13 | Scott Solomon (6-3, 263, Jr.) |
| DT | 89 | Chance Talbert (6-5, 283, Sr.) |
| NG | 55 | John Gioffre (6-0, 293, So.) |
| RDE | 95 | Cheta Ozougwu (6-2, 250, Jr.) |
| SLB | 45 | Tanner Shuck (5-11, 210, So.) |
| WLB | 34 | Terrance Garmon (6-2, 220, Sr.) |
| FCB | 1 | Jarrett Ben (5-10, 171, So.) |
| BCB | 38 | Chris Jammer (6-1, 186, So.) |
| ROV | 35 | Travis Bradshaw (6-1, 200, So.) |
| FS | 30 | Andrew Sendejo (6-1, 210, Sr.) |
| SS | 44 | Chris Jones (6-3, 200, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 46 | Clark Fangmeier (5-11, 190, Sr.) |
| P | 41 | Kyle Martens (6-6, 190, So.) |

Rice captured the attention of C-USA in 2008 with a school-record 10 wins—one shy of advancing to the conference title game.

David Bailiff was named the league's Coach of the Year after engineering the biggest turnaround in college football last season, increasing his team's win total by seven.

"That's what we want to do, continue building momentum for our football program," Bailiff says. "Winning seven games in a row [to end last season] helps that momentum and makes everything better."

But a rebuilding project is needed at the Houston school. Rice must replace both its passing attack and running game in 2009. The Owls also introduce new offensive coordinator Ed Zaunbrecher.

Replacing quarterback Chase Clement, wide receiver Jarett Dillard and tight end James Casey will be a priority.

However, Bailiff won't name a starting quarterback until fall. Nick Fanuzzi, a transfer from Alabama, threw six balls for 136 yards and three TDs in the spring game. He'll battle freshman Ryan Lewis and senior John Thomas Shepherd.

Wide receiver Toren Dixon will try to ease the loss of Dillard and Casey. Corbin Smiter likely will see more passes thrown his way as well.

The Owls' defense returns its top nine tacklers from '08, including safeties Andrew Sendejo (team-high 94 tackles) and Travis Bradshaw (89).

Rice ended last year with seven straight victories, including a Texas Bowl win, but its dream for a league championship remains intact.

"To get that close feeds that hunger," Bailiff says. "There's no complacency here. We want to achieve the ultimate goal, which is get to the Liberty Bowl."

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL
» ARMED FORCES BOWL

# TULANE GREEN WAVE 6

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| S.4 | Tulsa | 7-56 |
| Tulane hasn't competed with Tulsa since 2005, but the season opener may be the best time since the Golden Hurricane will be breaking in a new quarterback and different players on defense. | | |
| S.12 | Brigham Young | |
| S.26 | McNeese State | |
| 0.3 | @ARMY | 13-44 |
| 0.10 | Marshall | |
| 0.17 | Houston | 14-42 |
| 0.24 | @SOUTHERN MISS | |
| 0.31 | @LSU | 10-35 |
| N.7 | UTEP | 21-24 |
| N.14 | @RICE | 17-42 |
| N.21 | @UCF | |
| N.28 | @SMU | 34-27 |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 2-10
**C-USA:** 1-7

**Coach:** Bob Toledo
3rd year (6-18)
**Career record:** 55-50 (FBS)
**Offensive coordinator:**
Dan Dodd (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Steve Stanard (1st year)

**Stadium:** Louisiana Superdome (69,703)
**Tickets:** 504-861-WAVE
**Site:** New Orleans
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.tulanegreenwave.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 2 | Kevin Moore (6-5, 234, Jr.) |
| TB | 32 | Andre Anderson (6-0, 211, Sr.) |
| FB | 35 | Jordan Stephany (6-0, 243, Fr.) |
| LOG | 65 | Michael Parenton (6-2, 295, So.) |
| ROG | 75 | Tyler Rice (6-4, 260, Sr.) |
| C | 68 | Andrew Nierman (6-1, 294, Jr.) |
| LOT | 78 | Troy Kropog (6-6, 292, So.) |
| ROT | 78 | Nick Landry (6-7, 295, Sr.) |
| TE | 80 | Justin Kessler (6-4, 260, Sr.) |
| WR | 83 | Brian King (6-1, 190, Sr.) |
| WR | 20 | Jeremy Williams (6-1, 201, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 90 | Adam Kwentua (6-3, 259, Jr.) |
| LDT | 96 | Tony Bryant (6-3, 256, Jr.) |
| NT | 95 | Justin Adams (5-11, 260, Jr.) |
| RDE | 92 | Reggie Scott (6-4, 258, Sr.) |
| SLB | 33 | David Skehan (6-0, 222, Jr.) |
| MLB | 55 | David Kirksey (6-1, 225, Sr.) |
| WLB | 6 | Travis Burks (6-0, 208, Jr.) |
| CB | 13 | Phillip Davis (5-10, 172, Fr.) |
| CB | 12 | Josh Lumar (5-10, 176, So.) |
| S | 38 | Corey Sonnier (5-10, 195, Sr.) |
| S | 24 | Chinonso Echebelem (6-1, 208, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 40 | Darren deRochemont (5-9, 192, Fr.) |
| P | 47 | Ross Thevenot (6-0, 186, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

Tulane's start to its schedule isn't what most coaches would like to envision.

The Green Wave open with a C-USA game against Tulsa and a nonconference contest with BYU. It's a rough start for a Tulane program that dropped its last eight games during an injury-plagued 2008.

"We're trying to build a program and a lot of people want instant success," says Tulane coach Bob Toledo, noting that 22 freshmen saw action last year. "Sometimes, that's where injuries take place. Hopefully, we're coming to a point where we're developing the program."

Winning games is made easier by scoring points, and that's Tulane's emphasis in '09.

The team scored more than 24 points in only one game last season, averaging 16.7 a contest.

Quarterback Kevin Moore started every game, but also shared time with Joe Kemp. Both are competing for the starter's role this year, along with redshirt freshmen Ryan Griffin and D.J. Ponder.

The new signal-caller will have a quality running back in Andre Anderson. The senior ranked first among C-USA backs in rushing (123.4) and all-purpose yards (175.7) per game before injuring his shoulder late last season.

Senior Jeremy Williams (113 career catches, 12 TDs) will be the top wide-receiver target.

New defensive coordinator Steve Stanard will try to improve a unit that gave up 35 or more points in its final six games last season.

He received good news when defensive end Reggie Scott was awarded a sixth year of eligibility from the NCAA. The senior will team with left end Adam Kwentua to anchor the defensive line.

Safety Corey Sonnier had a team-high 86 stops last season, while David Kirksey (41) is expected to lead the linebackers.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

# PAC-10

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

1 USC
2 Oregon
3 California
4 Oregon State
5 UCLA
6 Arizona State
7 Stanford
8 Arizona
9 Washington
10 Washington State

## RATING THE PLAYERS

**Fastest Receiver**
Jamere Holland, Oregon

**Best Hands**
Chris McGaha, WR, Arizona State

**Best Passing QB**
Aaron Corp, USC

**Best Running QB**
Jeremiah Masoli, Oregon

**Most Elusive RB**
Jacquizz Rodgers, Oregon State

**Best Instincts**
Taylor Mays, S, USC

**Best Athlete**
Taylor Mays, S, USC

**Best Under Pressure**
Jeremiah Masoli, QB, Oregon

**Top NFL Prospect**
Taylor Mays, S, USC

**Top Impact Freshman**
Vontaze Burfict, LB, Arizona State

**Hardest Hitter**
Taylor Mays, S, USC

**Biggest Underachiever**
Joe McKnight, RB, USC

**Best Home-Field Advantage**
Oregon

**Best Fans**
Oregon State

**Best Mascot**
Washington's Husky

**Best Stadium**
Rose Bowl, UCLA

## League race will be determined by a number of untested quarterbacks

By **JON WILNER,** *San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News*

Given the Pac-10's history of aerial innovation and nonpareil production of NFL quarterbacks, any assessment of the league must begin by looking at the state of its quarterbacking. And this season, that state is chaotic.

Only two teams enter training camp knowing who will be under center in the season opener.

Washington is set with junior Jake Locker, who has recovered from the broken thumb that cut short his '08 season. And Oregon has Jeremiah Masoli to operate its spread option. But that's it.

There's a duel in the desert as Matt Scott and Nick Foles compete for the Arizona job.

Danny Sullivan is expected to take over for Rudy Carpenter at Arizona State, but he has just 87 passes on his résumé.

At some point before fall, USC will select either Aaron Corp or Matt Barkley to replace Mark Sanchez.

UCLA has several players vying for the starting spot and no guarantee any of them will lead the Bruins to better days.

Stanford has two options but neither is comforting to Cardinal fans between a mediocre senior and talented freshman.

California must choose between Kevin Riley and Brock Mansion. But who can get the job done is anyone's guess.

Oregon State would be set with Lyle Moevao, except he's coming off shoulder surgery, which means '08 reserve Sean Canfield could start.

And then there's Washington State, where last year's three-game starter Marshall Lobbestael was suspended after being arrested for possession of alcohol by a minor. That may leave unsteady senior Kevin Lopina to lead the charge.

Amid all this chaos, the league race is as difficult to project.

USC is again the team to beat but hardly looks unbeatable. California and Oregon should finish near the top, and the Washington schools near the bottom. Everyone else makes up the muddled middle, where one game—and decent quarterback play—could separate four or five teams.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Jeremy Crabtree, *Rivals.com*

**1. USC** Another elite class for the Trojans. USC again secures the best group in the Pac-10, including QB Matt Barkley.
**2. UCLA** There's more talent heading to Westwood this season than in the past, and the switch of Randall Carroll from USC to UCLA helped.
**3. STANFORD** Jim Harbaugh reeled in Stanford's first top-25 class since 2003. The Cardinal signed eight four-star players and 12 three-star recruits.
**4. ARIZONA STATE** ASU did a nice job in its own back yard. Linebacker Vontaze Burfict was a huge get for the Sun Devils.
**5. OREGON** Oregon finished second for many top prospects, but in the end it still will go down as a good all-around effort for the Ducks.
**6. CALIFORNIA** Cal got some solid recruits in four-star lineman Deandre Coleman, four-star linebacker Jarred Price and four-star quarterback Allan Bridgford.
**7. ARIZONA** While this class didn't crack the upper portion of the Pac-10, it's still one of Mike Stoops' best all-around efforts.
**8. OREGON STATE** There are five versatile athletes in this group, and several of the quarterbacks recruited could end up playing other positions.
**9. WASHINGTON** The dismal season on the field made it tough to land recruits, but Steve Sarkisian's energy attracted a lot of attention from top prospects late.
**10. WASHINGTON STATE** The Cougars sit at the bottom of the Pac-10 recruiting rankings for the third consecutive year.

## ALL-PAC-10

### OFFENSE

QB Jake Locker, Jr., Washington
RB Jahvid Best, Jr., California
RB Jacquizz Rodgers, So., Oregon State
OL Jeff Byers, Sr., USC
OL Mitchell Schwartz, So., California
OL Kristofer O'Dowd, Jr., USC
OL Charles Brown, Sr., USC
OL Chris Marinelli, Sr., Stanford
TE Rob Gronkowski, Jr., Arizona
WR Damian Williams, Jr., USC
WR James Rodgers, Jr., Oregon State

### DEFENSE

DL Tyson Alualu, Sr., California
DL Brian Price, Jr., UCLA
DL Will Tukuafu, Sr., Oregon
DL Dexter Davis, Sr., Arizona State
LB Reggie Carter, Sr., UCLA
LB Keaton Kristick, Sr., Oregon State
LB Michael Mohamed, Jr., California
DB Syd'Quan Thompson, Sr., California
DB Taylor Mays, Sr., USC
DB Devin Ross, Sr., Arizona
DB Walter Thurmond, Sr., Oregon

### SPECIALISTS

K Kai Forbath, Jr., UCLA
P Bryan Anger, So., California

## FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

**1** The Pac-10 will have a major officiating controversy. It seems that every year a decision made on the field or in the replay booth results in the league being mocked from coast to coast.

**2** Washington's 14-game losing streak will end. With a new coach, healthy Jake Locker and an easier schedule, the Huskies will finally break through—probably in the team's second game against Idaho.

**3** Arizona will lose a game it shouldn't. The Wildcats are 0-4 the past two years against Stanford and New Mexico. Best bets for a head-scratching loss in '09 are Central Michigan and Washington.

**4** Jahvid Best will score on a 90-yard run. California's fast tailback had three runs of 80 yards or more in '08. But the league record for longest run (98 yards) will probably survive.

## ASCENDING

**UCLA** Two stellar recruiting classes, a loaded defense and Norm Chow's ability to coach quarterbacks should propel the Bruins to a better conference ranking and, perhaps, into a bowl game.

## DESCENDING

**OREGON STATE** The Beavers should finish in the top half of the conference with Jacquizz and James Rodgers back. But they lose too much on defense to compete for the title.

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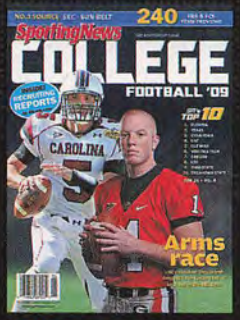
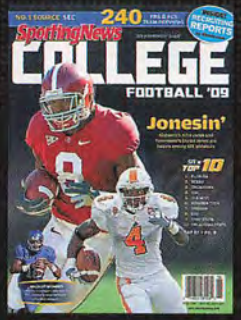
**NORTHEAST**
**Cover:** Anthony Davis, OT, Rutgers
**Inset:** Mike Williams, WR, Syracuse

**NORTH ATLANTIC**
**Cover:** Daryll Clark, QB, Penn State
**Inset:** Noel Devine, RB, WVU

**SOUTH ATLANTIC**
**Cover:** Tyrod Taylor, QB, Virginia Tech & Russell Wilson, QB, N.C. State
**Inset:** Marvin Austin, DT, North Carolina




**SOUTHEAST**
**Cover:** Joe Cox, QB, Georgia & Stephen Garcia, QB, South Carolina




**SOUTH**
**Cover:** Julio Jones, WR, Alabama & Gerald Jones, WR, Tennessee
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**Cover:** Jevan Snead, QB, Ole Miss & Ryan Mallett, QB, Arkansas
**Inset:** Charles Scott, RB, LSU

**FLORIDA**
**Cover:** Tim Tebow, QB, Florida
**Insets:** George Selvie, DE, South Florida & Sean Spence, LB, Miami

**TEXAS**
**Cover:** Colt McCoy, QB, Texas & Jordan Shipley, WR, Texas
**Inset:** Robert Griffin, QB, Baylor

**MIDEAST**
**Cover:** Jimmy Clausen, QB, Notre Dame
**Inset:** Arrelious Benn, WR, Illinois

**OHIO**
**Cover:** Terrelle Pryor, QB, Ohio State
**Inset:** Mardy Gilyard, WR, Cincinnati

**MIDWEST**
**Cover:** Brandon Graham, DE, Michigan & Garrett Graham, TE, Wisconsin
**Inset:** Adam Weber, QB, Minnesota

**MIDLANDS**
**Cover:** Roy Helu, RB, Nebraska
**Inset:** Ricky Stanzi, QB, Iowa

**PLAINS**
**Cover:** Todd Reesing, QB, Kansas, Cody Hawkins, QB, Colorado & Sam Bradford, QB, Oklahoma

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST**
**Cover:** LeGarrette Blount, RB, Oregon & Jahvid Best, RB, California
**Inset:** Kellen Moore, QB, Boise State

**REGION NAME**
**Cover:** Dexter Davis, DE, Arizona State, Stevenson Sylvester, LB, Utah & Clint McPeek, S, New Mexico

**REGION NAME**
**Cover:** Taylor Mays, S, USC
**Inset:** Logan Paulsen, TE, UCLA

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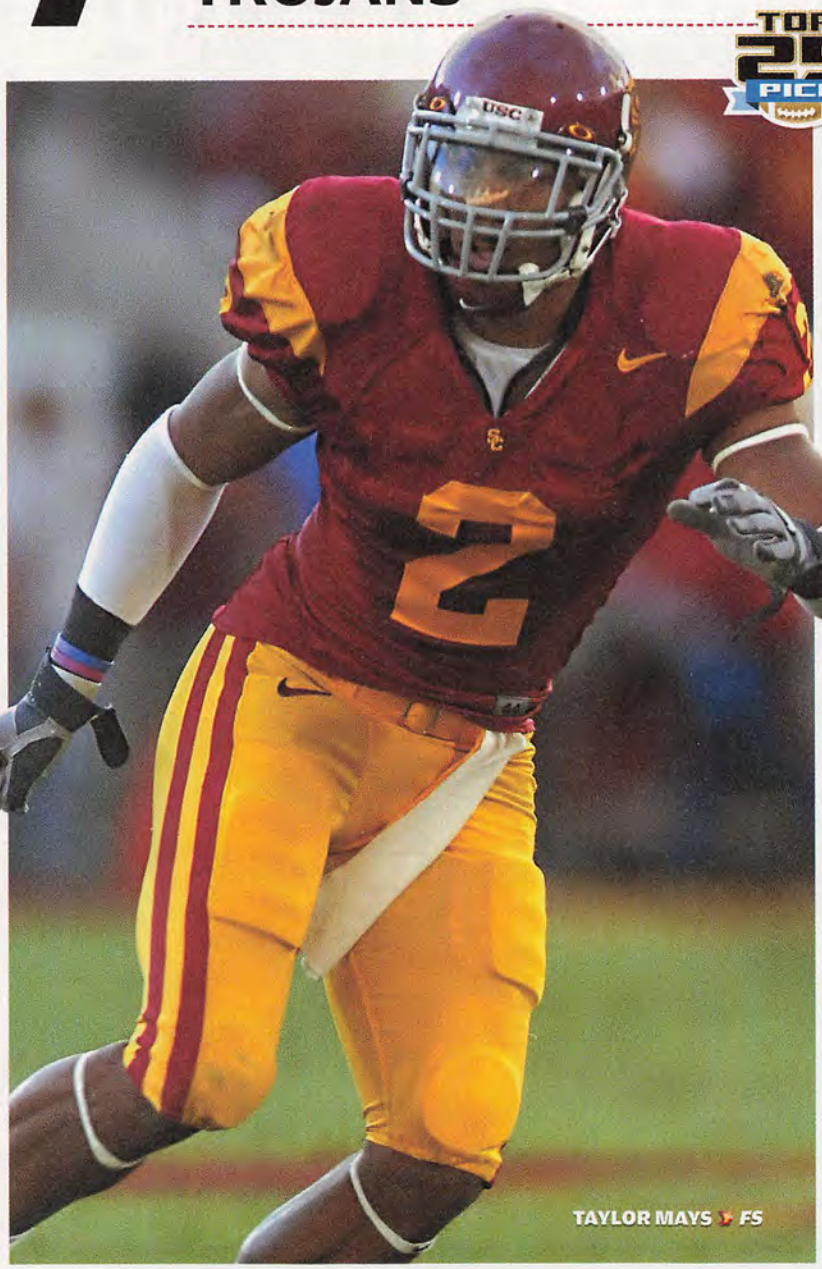
PAC-10 PRESEASON RANK

# 1 USC TROJANS



TAYLOR MAYS » FS

TOP 25 PICK

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | San Jose State | |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.12** | **@OHIO STATE** | **35-3** |
| A rematch of USC's romp last year should tell fans which storied program will be in the BCS title hunt. | | |
| S.19 | @WASHINGTON | 56-0 |
| S.26 | Washington State | 69-0 |
| O.3 | @CALIFORNIA | 17-3 |
| O.17 | @NOTRE DAME | 38-3 |
| O.24 | Oregon State | 21-27 |
| O.31 | @OREGON | 44-10 |
| N.7 | @ARIZONA STATE | 28-0 |
| N.14 | Stanford | 45-23 |
| N.28 | UCLA | 28-7 |
| D.5 | Arizona | 17-10 |

**BOWL PROJECTION**
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**PROFESSOR'S GRADE » A**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Trojans sport a veteran line and fantastic skill-position players.
- Must replace eight defensive starters.

Pete Carroll ought to hang a banner outside the USC football office that says in big cardinal-and-gold letters: "Come and get us."

That would be all that needs saying about the current state of USC football—Carroll's insatiable competitiveness, the Trojans' era of dominance and their apparent vulnerability this season.

Not since Carroll's first year in Heritage Hall (2001) have the Trojans had as many questions as they do in '09, with a new quarterback and rebuilt defense. If their amazing streaks are ever going to end—seven consecutive BCS appearances, Pac-10 titles and 11-win seasons—they will this year.

"Every season presents new and different challenges, as is certainly the case this year," Carroll says. "But we do have the ingredients to have another very good team."

Very good? Perhaps. Great? Seems unlikely.

The problem Carroll faces is the combination of a rookie quarterback, a new offensive coordinator and only three returning starters on defense. In other words, major questions on both sides of the ball. If it were just the defense, or only the offense, then the Trojans would be in much better shape.

Their fate depends largely on the quarterback play. The projected starter entering training camp is sophomore Aaron Corp, although freshman Matt Barkley played well enough in April to make the situation interesting. Bringing up the third spot is former top recruit and Arkansas transfer Mitch Mustain.

Southern Cal returns five starters up front and should have one of the best offensive lines in the country. Kristofer O'Dowd is an All-America candidate at center, while senior Jeff Byers (granted a sixth year by the NCAA) and Charles Brown figure to provide Corp or Barkley with first-rate protection.

The quarterbacks will have a solid set of receivers at their disposal, beginning with all-conference junior

KIRBY LEE / US PRESSWIRE

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

Mitch Mustain

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 167.43 | 16-11-2 | 68.8 | 157 | 2 | 26.2 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stafon Johnson | 13 | 138 | 705 | 5.1 | 9 | 54.2 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Damian Williams | 13 | 58 | 869 | 15.0 | 9 | 66.8 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Taylor Mays | 13 | 38 | 15 | 53 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Everson Griffen | 12 | 4.5 | 39 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Drew McAllister | 3 | 37 | 12.3 | 0 |
| Kevin Thomas | 3 | 53 | 17.7 | 1 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 12-1
**Pac-10:** 8-1
*(beat Penn State in the Rose Bowl, 38-24)*

**Coach:** Pete Carroll
9th year (88-15)
**Career record:** 88-15
**Offensive coordinator:**
John Morton (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Rocky Seto (1st year)

**Stadium:** Los Angeles Memorial Stadium (92,000)
**Tickets:** 213-740-GOSC
**Site:** Los Angeles
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.usctrojans.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 15 | Aaron Corp (6-4, 195, So.) |
| | 7 | Matt Barkley (6-3, 220, Fr.) |
| FB | 31 | Stanley Havili (6-0, 225, Jr.) |
| | 45 | Adam Goodman (6-1, 240, Sr.) |
| RB | 2 | C.J. Gable (6-0, 200, Jr.) |
| | 13 | Stafon Johnson (5-11, 215, Sr.) |
| LOT | 71 | Charles Brown (6-6, 295, Sr.) |
| | 70 | Tyron Smith (6-6, 270, So.) |
| LOG | 53 | Jeff Byers (6-4, 285, Sr.) |
| | 56 | Alex Parsons (6-4, 300, Sr.) |
| C | 61 | Kristofer O'Dowd (6-5, 300, Jr.) |
| | 56 | Alex Parsons (6-4, 300, Sr.) |
| ROG | 74 | Zack Heberer (6-5, 300, Jr.) |
| | 90 | Derek Simmons (6-4, 285, Jr.) |
| ROT | 68 | Butch Lewis (6-5, 300, Jr.) |
| | 76 | Nick Howell (6-5, 280, Sr.) |
| TE | 86 | Anthony McCoy (6-5, 255, Sr.) |
| | 40 | Rhett Ellison (6-5, 250, So.) |
| WR | 18 | Damian Williams (6-1, 190, Jr.) |
| | 9 | David Ausberry (6-4, 235, So.) |
| WR | 8 | Ronald Johnson (6-1, 185, Jr.) |
| | 17 | Travon Patterson (5-10, 175, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 97 | Malik Jackson (6-5, 230, So.) |
| | 96 | Wes Horton (6-5, 245, Fr.) |
| LDT | 44 | Christian Tupou (6-2, 280, Jr.) |
| | 91 | Jurrell Casey (6-1, 280, So.) |
| RDT | 99 | Averell Spicer (6-2, 295, Sr.) |
| | 94 | Armond Armstead (6-5, 290, So.) |
| RDE | 93 | Everson Griffen (6-3, 265, Jr.) |
| | 8 | Nick Perry (6-3, 240, Fr.) |
| SLB | 17 | Michael Morgan (6-4, 220, Jr.) |
| | 57 | Nick Garratt (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| MLB | 54 | Chris Galippo (6-2, 255, So.) |
| | 52 | Luthur Brown (6-2, 235, Sr.) |
| WLB | 6 | Malcolm Smith (6-1, 225, Jr.) |
| | 37 | Jordan Campbell (5-11, 230, So.) |
| LCB | 15 | Kevin Thomas (6-1, 185, Sr.) |
| | 30 | Brian Baucham (5-11, 190, Fr.) |
| RCB | 24 | Shareece Wright (6-0, 180, Jr.) |
| | 1 | T.J. Bryant (6-1, 190, So.) |
| FS | 2 | Taylor Mays (6-3, 230, Sr.) |
| | 26 | Will Harris (6-1, 200, Sr.) |
| SS | 36 | Josh Pinkard (6-2, 210, Sr.) |
| | 27 | Marshall Jones (6-0, 185, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PK | 30 | Joe Houston (5-8, 170, Jr.) |
| P | 25 | Billy O'Malley (6-1, 195, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | USC | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 488 | 117 |
| Points Per Game | 37.5 | 9.0 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 305 | 181 |
| Rushing | 132 | 66 |
| Passing | 153 | 86 |
| Penalty | 20 | 29 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2533 | 1136 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2808 | 1565 |
| Yards lost rushing | 275 | 429 |
| Rushing Attempts | 503 | 416 |
| Average Per Rush | 5.0 | 2.7 |
| Average Per Game | 194.8 | 87.4 |
| TDs Rushing | 27 | 8 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 3378 | 1747 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 388-254-12 | 382-199-19 |
| Average Per Pass | 8.7 | 4.6 |
| Average Per Catch | 13.3 | 8.8 |
| Average Per Game | 259.8 | 134.4 |
| TDs Passing | 36 | 6 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5911 | 2883 |
| Total Plays | 891 | 798 |
| Average Per Play | 6.6 | 3.6 |
| Average Per Game | 454.7 | 221.8 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 23-610 | 39-775 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 49-392 | 12-122 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 19-276 | 12-81 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | USC | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 26.5 | 19.9 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 8.0 | 10.2 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 14.5 | 6.8 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 23-10 | 16-10 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 103-948 | 81-658 |
| Average Per Game | 72.9 | 50.6 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 47-1733 | 96-4075 |
| Average Per Punt | 36.9 | 42.4 |
| Net punt average | 33.0 | 36.7 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 31:14 | 28:46 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 77/168 | 51/185 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 46% | 28% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 12/20 | 5/15 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 60% | 33% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 29-220 | 18-118 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 24 |
| TDS SCORED | 66 | 14 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 9-13 | 7-13 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 65-66 | 12-13 |
| ATTENDANCE | 520756 | 328546 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/86793 | 6/54758 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/93293 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| USC | 117 | 172 | 94 | 105 | 488 |
| Opponent | 48 | 30 | 7 | 32 | 117 |

Damian Williams, the Arkansas transfer who had 58 catches and nine touchdowns last year. Ronald Johnson, David Ausberry and Travon Patterson are nice options to have as well.

So are tailbacks C.J. Gable, Stafon Johnson, Joe McKnight, Curtis McNeal, Allen Bradford and Marc Tyler, plus fullback Stanley Havili and the other members of USC's loaded running-back unit.

"The veteran tailbacks are all ready for breakout seasons," Carroll says.

The offensive philosophy might call for as much run-pass balance as possible, but watch for the Trojans to use the ground game to set up the passing attack more so than in the past—especially early in the season as the quarterback settles in.

Besides taking pressure off Corp or Barkley, a dominant running game would eat the clock and keep the defense off the field. Last year, USC wanted the defensive unit on the field because the results were usually good. But with a rebuilt front seven and a new coordinator (Rocky Seto), the situation is more tenuous this year.

The Trojans must replace three starters on both the defensive line and at linebacker, including Clay Matthews, Brian Cushing and Rey Maualuga—the core of one of the stingiest defenses in Pac-10 history. In fact, only one of USC's elite defenders returns—free safety Taylor Mays. While he's one of the best players in the country and makes everyone around him better, Mays is only one player.

That means the Trojans need the other returning starters—tackle Christian Tupou and strong safety Josh Pinkard—to be impact players week after week, and the first-time starters must play like veterans.

Sophomore Chris Galippo takes over the middle from Maualuga. He's big and fast and was one of the top Major League Baseball prospects in the country a few years ago. But he played sparingly last season and has much to learn. Michael Morgan (strong side) and Malcolm Smith (weak side) are projected to flank Galippo, although those positions could remain unsettled well into fall.

There's more experience on the line with Tupou (10 starts in '08) and Averell Spicer (3) at tackle and star-in-the-making Everson Griffen (3) and Malik Jackson on the ends.

Backing up the front seven is a veteran secondary. Pinkard could play strong safety alongside Mays, or cornerback, where he started for two seasons. Will Harris started five games at safety last year, while cornerbacks Kevin Thomas and Shareece Wright both have plenty of experience.

## RECRUITING REPORT

Another year, another elite class for the Trojans. USC once again had the best class in the Pac-10, and this year's recruits have plenty of stars outside of quarterback **Matt Barkley**, who was *Rivals.com's* No. 1 player in the nation. **Patrick Hall** is one of the country's best athletes, and he should star at safety in the future. Defensive end **Devon Kennard** might have ascended to the No. 1 ranking in the nation if not for a knee injury. Then there are other playmakers such as **T.J. McDonald, Hebron Fangupo, Kevin Graf, John Martinez** ... and the list goes on and on.

*—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *EVERSON GRIFFEN, DE*

The junior could be USC's next great defensive lineman. The former five-star recruit was a pass-rush specialist in '08, but should play full time this fall—and possibly lead the conference in sacks.

# 2 OREGON DUCKS

LeGARRETTE BLOUNT › RB

TOP 25 PICK

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| S.3 | @BOISE STATE | 32-37 |
| A huge Thursday night game (ESPN) on the opening weekend. We'll know if the Ducks are a BCS contender when this contest is over. | | |
| S.12 | Purdue | 32-26 (OT) |
| S.19 | Utah | |
| S.26 | California | 16-26 |
| O.3 | Washington State | 63-14 |
| O.10 | @UCLA | 31-24 |
| O.24 | @WASHINGTON | 44-10 |
| O.31 | USC | 10-44 |
| N.7 | @STANFORD | 35-28 |
| N.14 | Arizona State | 54-20 |
| N.21 | @ARIZONA | 55-45 |
| D.3 | Oregon State | 65-38 |

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» HOLIDAY BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE › A-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» Veteran quarterback and loads of talent at running back and receiver.
» Holes on defense (line and secondary) that won't easily be filled.

Here's where things get interesting, at least for those trying to project the order of finish in a league that, because of quarterback issues, would seem to defy projection.

While mired in QB controversies, USC and California both have enough returning talent elsewhere to be declared the front-runner in the Pac-10.

But then it gets muddled, as Oregon could land in any number of slots. While the Ducks are settled at quarterback—no team is in better shape—they took so many personnel hits at other positions (including head coach) that it's difficult to say if they'll beat out Cal for the second-place spot in the league. (USC likely has the Pac-10 title wrapped up before the first kickoff of 2009.)

Could Oregon challenge for the conference title? Sure. But it could also finish fourth or fifth.

The big question, of course, is how the Ducks will handle the coaching change. Mike Bellotti retired in March after 14 years in command. Oregon named offensive coordinator Chip Kelly the coach-in-waiting before Bellotti made it official, so the transition was seamless. But that doesn't mean everything will be a breeze on the field and in the locker room this season. Bellotti excelled at managing the program and leaving much of the game preparation to his assistants.

Kelly has two key aspects of the game working in his favor this fall.

One is the schedule, which is custom-made for a first-rate season. The Ducks open at Boise State and play Purdue and Utah at home, which means there is some risk, but also the potential for reward. And in conference action, the Ducks play against USC, Cal and Oregon State in Eugene.

Kelly also steps into an envious situation with his quarterbacks.

CHRIS BERNACCHI / SPORTPICS

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

Jeremiah Masoli

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | 131.96 | 239-136-5 | 56.9 | 1744 | 13 | 145.3 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LeGarrette Blount | 13 | 137 | 1002 | 7.3 | 17 | 77.1 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jeff Maehl | 13 | 39 | 421 | 10.8 | 5 | 32.4 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| T.J. Ward | 13 | 64 | 37 | 101 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Will Tukuafu | 13 | 7.5 | 46 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Walter Thurmond | 5 | 67 | 13.4 | 1 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 10-3
**Pac-10:** 7-2
*(beat Oklahoma State in the Pacific Life Holiday Bowl, 42-31)*

**Coach:** Chip Kelly, 1st year
**Offensive coordinator:** Chip Kelly
**Defensive coordinator:** Nick Aliotti (12th year)

**Stadium:** Autzen Stadium (54,000)
**Tickets:** 800-WEB-FOOT
**Site:** Eugene
**Official athletic Web site:** www.goducks.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 2 | Jeremiah Masoli (5-11, 214, Jr.) |
| | 11 | Justin Roper (6-6, 204, Jr.) |
| RB | 9 | LeGarrette Blount (6-2, 240, Sr.) |
| | 22 | Andre Crenshaw (5-11, 196, Sr.) |
| LOT | 69 | Bo Thran (6-5, 295, Jr.) |
| | 76 | Charlie Carmichael (6-4, 295, So.) |
| LOG | 54 | Jordan Holmes (6-5, 285, Jr.) |
| | 70 | Ramsen Golpashin (6-4, 280, So.) |
| C | 72 | Hamani Stevens (6-4, 288, Fr.) |
| | 64 | Max Forer (6-3, 271, Jr.) |
| ROG | 79 | Mark Asper (6-7, 323, Jr.) |
| | 74 | Darrion Weems (6-5, 310, So.) |
| ROT | 68 | C.E. Kaiser (6-4, 290, Jr.) |
| | 65 | Lance Barker (6-1, 245, Fr.) |
| TE | 83 | Ed Dickson (6-5, 243, Sr.) |
| | 26 | Malachi Lewis (6-4, 220, Jr.) |
| WR | 19 | Jamere Holland (6-1, 185, Jr.) |
| | 80 | Lavasier Tuinei (6-5, 200, So.) |
| WR | 23 | Jeff Maehl (6-1, 175, Jr.) |
| | 91 | Rory Cavaille (6-3, 207, Sr.) |
| WR | 10 | D.J. Davis (6-1, 205, Jr.) |
| | 19 | Tyrece Gaines (6-2, 225, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 39 | Will Tukuafu (6-4, 272, Sr.) |
| | 88 | Brandon Bair (6-7, 250, Jr.) |
| LDT | 59 | Terrence Montgomery (6-1, 291, Jr.) |
| | 95 | Tonio Celotto (6-3, 275, Jr.) |
| RDT | 90 | Blake Ferras (6-6, 290, Sr.) |
| | 96 | Mike Bellagamba (6-2, 267, Sr.) |
| RDE | 99 | Zac Clark (6-2, 256, Jr.) |
| | 58 | Kenny Rowe (6-3, 230, Jr.) |
| SLB | 38 | Eddie Pleasant (5-11, 223, So.) |
| | 44 | Brandon Hanna (6-2, 233, So.) |
| MLB | 55 | Casey Matthews (6-2, 235, Jr.) |
| | 54 | Riley Showalter (6-3, 225, Sr.) |
| WLB | 35 | Spencer Paysinger (6-3, 216, Jr.) |
| | 33 | Tyrell Irvin (6-1, 219, Jr.) |
| LCB | 17 | Willie Glasper (5-11, 188, Sr.) |
| | 21 | Brian Butterfield (6-0, 182, Jr.) |
| RCB | 6 | Walter Thurmond (6-0, 180, Sr.) |
| | 37 | Talmadge Jackson (5-10, 182, Jr.) |
| FS | 2 | T.J. Ward (5-11, 201, Sr.) |
| | 14 | Javes Lewis (6-1, 185, So.) |
| SS | 1 | Marvin Johnson (5-11, 199, Jr.) |
| | 27 | Titus Jackson (6-0, 192, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 25 | Morgan Flint (5-9, 163, Sr.) |
| P | 26 | Tim Taylor (5-11, 182, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | OREGON | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 545 | 367 |
| Points Per Game | 41.9 | 28.2 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 301 | 276 |
| Rushing | 160 | 82 |
| Passing | 113 | 165 |
| Penalty | 28 | 29 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 3641 | 1552 |
| Yards gained rushing | 4019 | 1967 |
| Yards lost rushing | 378 | 415 |
| Rushing Attempts | 585 | 503 |
| Average Per Rush | 6.2 | 3.1 |
| Average Per Game | 280.1 | 119.4 |
| TDs Rushing | 47 | 18 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2662 | 3513 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 373-204-12 | 531-307-16 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.1 | 6.6 |
| Average Per Catch | 13.0 | 11.4 |
| Average Per Game | 204.8 | 270.2 |
| TDs Passing | 20 | 25 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 6303 | 5065 |
| Total Plays | 958 | 1034 |
| Average Per Play | 6.6 | 4.9 |
| Average Per Game | 484.8 | 389.6 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 56-1217 | 65-1289 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 29-363 | 19-198 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 16-236 | 12-173 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | OREGON | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 21.7 | 19.8 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 12.5 | 10.4 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 14.8 | 14.4 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 26-14 | 21-15 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 92-807 | 92-852 |
| Average Per Game | 62.1 | 65.5 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 54-2291 | 78-2955 |
| Average Per Punt | 42.4 | 37.9 |
| Net punt average | 35.4 | 32.2 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 25:11 | 34:49 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 72/182 | 88/226 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 40% | 39% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 8/19 | 9/21 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 42% | 43% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 40-235 | 20-121 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 23 |
| TDS SCORED | 71 | 44 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 18-27 | 19-27 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 63-65 | 40-41 |
| ATTENDANCE | 350661 | 345515 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/58444 | 6/57586 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/59106 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oregon | 153 | 108 | 146 | 129 | 9 | 545 |
| Opponent | 62 | 130 | 78 | 94 | 3 | 367 |

Junior Jeremiah Masoli is back to operate Kelly's spread option, as is Justin Roper, the star of the 2007 Sun Bowl who was injured last season.

Masoli won't remind anyone of Joey Harrington and his ability to throw the ball downfield, but he is tough, accurate and a fantastic runner who put up 59.8 yards per game on the ground in 2008.

For the offense to keep humming, the Ducks must first solidify their line, which lost its best players in center Max Unger and left tackle Fenuki Tupou. And with 1,201-yard rusher Jeremiah Johnson gone, they must find a complement to 1,002-yard rusher LeGarrette Blount in the backfield. Senior Andre Crenshaw was probably the front-runner entering training camp.

Wideout D.J. Davis, who won a starting spot before injuring his knee, is expected to be ready to play this fall. He'll join starter Jeff Maehl, gifted junior Jamere Holland and two junior-college transfers in Lavasier Tuinei and Tyrece Gaines, the No. 1 juco receiver in the country last year.

With those options for Masoli on the outside, all the Ducks need is some decent line play and a second option at tailback to field another high-powered attack.

And Oregon will need to score, because the defense, which wasn't granite to begin with (28.2 points and 389.6 yards allowed per game in '08), lost most of its top players.

The biggest hole on the line was left by end Nick Reed, a first-team all-league player and one of the best pass rushers in school history. The Ducks are hoping junior-college transfer Zac Clark is up to the challenge. If not, then Kenny Rowe will step in.

In all, Oregon lost three starters up front, with only end Will Tukuafu returning. Junior-college transfer Terrence Montgomery might be an answer at one of the tackle spots, but that was a major area of concern entering training camp.

Two of the three linebackers return (Spencer Paysinger and Casey Matthews), as do two starters in the secondary: Walter Thurmond, a top-rate cornerback, and safety T.J. Ward.

But the Ducks must replace two first-team all-conference players in cornerback Jairus Byrd and strong safety Patrick Chung, the heart of last year's defense. Junior Marvin Johnson is first in line at rover, but he'll have to play far above expectations to approach Chung's production and value.

The special teams have holes to fill as well. Senior kicker Morgan Flint returns and Thurmond will again handle kickoff returns, but the Ducks lost their punter (Josh Syria) and punt-return man (Byrd).

### RECRUITING REPORT

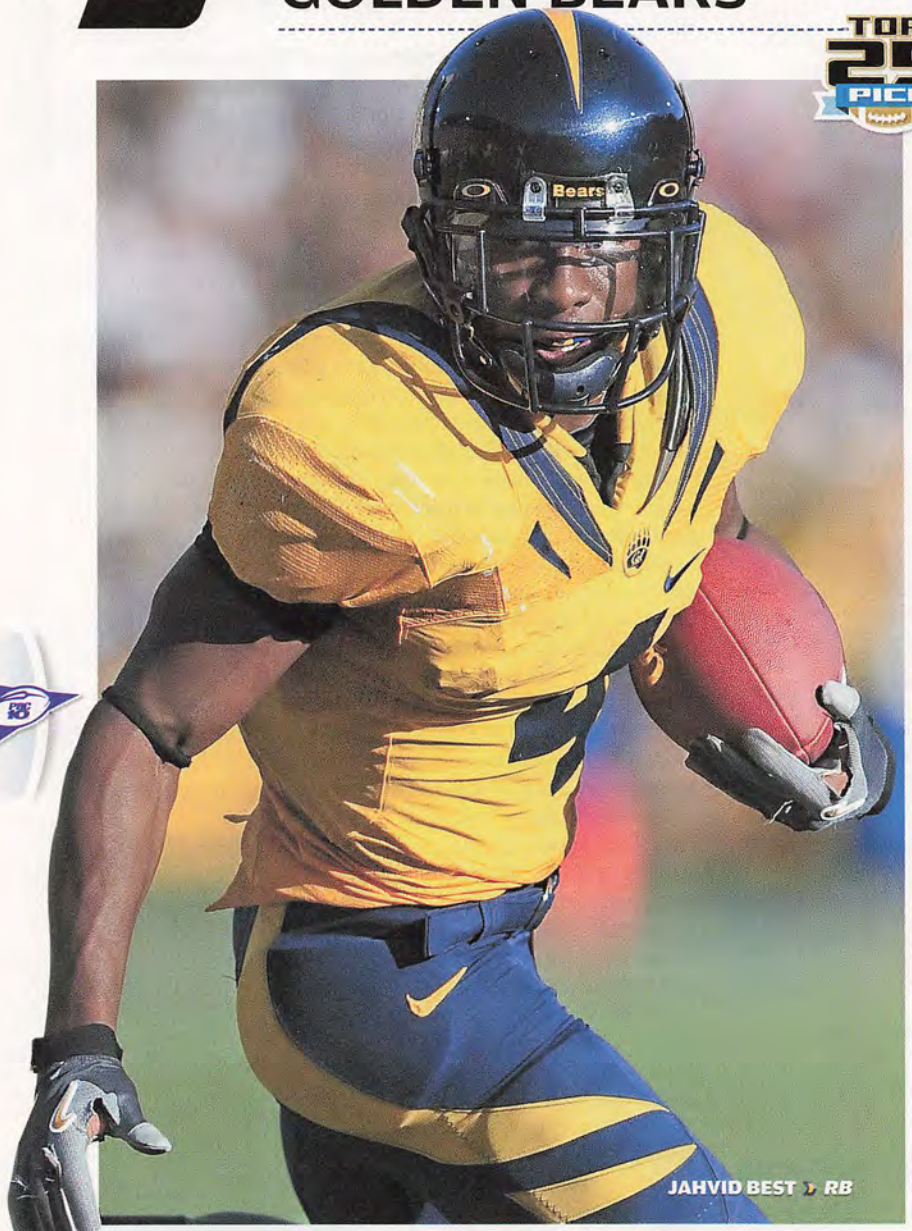
Oregon's class is solid, but Ducks fans can't help but think about what might have been. Oregon finished second for many top prospects, but it still was a good all-around effort. The Ducks went hard for defensive prospects and did well at linebacker and defensive back. The offensive line was a major need and was addressed with quality prospects such as **Karrington Armstrong** and **Jamaal Burrell.** You don't recruit junior-college players to sit the bench, and Oregon expects four-star linebacker recruit **Bryson Littlejohn** to make an immediate impact.
*—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *JAMERE HOLLAND, WR*

The junior receiver could be ready for a breakout season. A coveted recruit who once clocked 10.36 in the 100-meter dash, he signed with USC and spent the '06 season on the sidelines because of an injury before transferring to Oregon.

# 3 CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

TOP 25 PICK




JAHVID BEST › RB

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Maryland | 27-35 |
| S.12 | Eastern Washington | |
| S.19 | @MINNESOTA | |
| S.26 | @OREGON | 26-16 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| 0.3 | USC | 3-17 |
| This showdown follows a trip to Oregon, so we'll know early whether the Bears are a serious contender for the Rose Bowl. | | |
| 0.17 | @UCLA | 41-20 |
| 0.24 | Washington State | 66-3 |
| 0.31 | @ARIZONA STATE | 24-14 |
| N.7 | Oregon State | 21-34 |
| N.14 | Arizona | 27-42 |
| N.21 | @STANFORD | 37-16 |
| D.5 | @WASHINGTON | 48-7 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL

» LAS VEGAS BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE › B+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Tailback Jahvid Best runs behind a veteran line.
- Golden Bears have an experienced defense.
- Shutdown cornerback in Syd'Quan Thompson.

One question summarizes Cal's prospects for the 2009 season, and it's not, "Will the quarterbacks play better than they did last year?"

Instead, the question in Berkeley is: If not now, when?

If the Bears cannot overtake USC now—with the Trojans breaking in a new quarterback and new defense—then when will they?

If they cannot make the big plays and big stops now—with talent at the skill positions and eight starters returning on defense—then when will they?

If they can't reach their first Rose Bowl in 51 years this year—with a deep, veteran team, good chemistry, the right systems and the conference title there for the taking—then when will they?

Cal has a terrific chance this fall, much better than in past years.

"Everybody believes we can be Pac-10 champions," quarterback Kevin Riley says.

And Riley will be an integral part of Cal's success, or failure, in that long-awaited endeavor.

If there is efficient, consistent quarterback play, then all things are possible for the Bears, who boast one of the top defenses in the conference and one of the best playmakers in the country in tailback Jahvid Best.

Best rushed for 1,580 yards last season despite missing a game to injury and not having a complementary aerial attack. Defenses were designed to stop him, yet the junior still averaged 8.1 yards per carry and 131.7 yards per game as a sophomore.

But the Bears haven't fielded a top-notch quarterback since Aaron Rodgers in 2004. The current troubles began in the second half of the '07 season, when coach Jeff Tedford stuck with Nate Longshore through a dreadful series of performances.

Last fall, Tedford took the opposite approach and used a quick hook with Riley, yanking the him despite a 3-1 record and solid numbers. The season-long rotation with Longshore produced

BEN MUNN / CAL SPORT MEDIA

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

Kevin Riley

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | 117.85 | 221-112-6 | 50.7 | 1360 | 14 | 123.6 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jahvid Best | 12 | 194 | 1580 | 8.1 | 15 | 131.7 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nyan Boateng | 13 | 29 | 439 | 15.1 | 5 | 33.8 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Michael Mohamed | 13 | 51 | 36 | 87 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tyson Alualu | 13 | 6 | 51 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Syd'Quan Thompson | 4 | 128 | 32.0 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-4
**Pac-10:** 6-3
*(beat Miami in the Champs Sports Bowl, 24-17)*

**Coach:** Jeff Tedford
8th year (59-30)
**Career record:** 59-30
**Offensive coordinator:**
Andy Ludwig (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Bob Gregory (8th year)

**Stadium:** California Memorial Stadium (72,516)
**Tickets:** 800-GO-BEARS
**Site:** Berkeley
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.calbears.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 13 | Kevin Riley (6-2, 221, Jr.) |
| | 10 | Brock Mansion (6-5, 237, So.) |
| FB | 33 | Brian Holley (5-9, 235, Sr.) |
| | 22 | Will Kapp (5-10, 216, So.) |
| RB | 4 | Jahvid Best (5-10, 195, Jr.) |
| | 34 | Shane Vereen (5-10, 198, So.) |
| LOT | 79 | Mike Tepper (6-7, 319, Sr.) |
| | 75 | Matt Summers-Gavin (6-4, 291, Fr.) |
| LOG | 70 | Mark Boskovich (6-4, 304, Jr.) |
| | 71 | Sam DeMartinis (6-5, 293, So.) |
| C | 54 | Chris Guarnero (6-2, 275, Jr.) |
| | 73 | Richard Fisher (6-4, 290, Jr.) |
| ROG | 61 | Justin Cheadle (6-2, 299, So.) |
| | 58 | Chet Teofilo (6-3, 329, Sr.) |
| ROT | 72 | Mitchell Schwartz (6-7, 335, So.) |
| | 53 | Donovan Edwards (6-5, 285, Jr.) |
| TE | 44 | Tad Smith (6-5, 254, Sr.) |
| | 80 | Anthony Miller (6-3, 258, So.) |
| WR | 8 | Nyan Boateng (6-2, 211, Sr.) |
| | 3 | Jeremy Ross (5-11, 216, Jr.) |
| WR | 1 | Marvin Jones (6-2, 190, So.) |
| | 86 | Verran Tucker (6-1, 204, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 97 | Cameron Jordan (6-4, 287, Jr.) |
| | 91 | Cody Jones (6-4, 276, Jr.) |
| NT | 76 | Derrick Hill (6-2, 302, Jr.) |
| | 96 | Kendrick Payne (6-2, 300, Fr.) |
| RDE | 44 | Tyson Alualu (6-3, 295, Sr.) |
| | 47 | Keith Browner (6-6, 268, Jr.) |
| LOLB | 9 | Eddie Young (6-0, 239, Sr.) |
| | 4 | Chris Little (6-2, 224, Fr.) |
| LILB | 30 | Mychal Kendricks (6-0, 230, So.) |
| | 90 | Solomona Aigamaua (6-1, 246, So.) |
| RILB | 18 | Michael Mohamed (6-3, 237, Jr.) |
| | 43 | Charles Johnson (6-1, 232, Jr.) |
| ROLB | 10 | Devin Bishop (6-1, 239, Sr.) |
| | 3 | D.J. Holt (6-1, 250, So.) |
| LCB | 26 | Darian Hagan (6-0, 186, Jr.) |
| | 17 | Chris Conte (6-3, 205, Jr.) |
| RCB | 5 | Syd'Quan Thompson (5-9, 187, Sr.) |
| | 27 | Charles Amadi (5-10, 186, Jr.) |
| FS | 25 | Brett Johnson (6-1, 194, Sr.) |
| | 11 | Sean Cattouse (6-2, 206, So.) |
| SS | 29 | Marcus Ezeff (5-11, 219, Sr.) |
| | 7 | D.J. Campbell (5-11, 198, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 40 | Giorgio Tavecchio (5-8, 173, So.) |
| P | 19 | Bryan Anger (6-3, 199, So.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | CALIFORNIA | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 424 | 259 |
| Points Per Game | 32.6 | 19.9 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 230 | 229 |
| Rushing | 97 | 95 |
| Passing | 110 | 115 |
| Penalty | 23 | 19 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2421 | 1589 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2786 | 2056 |
| Yards lost rushing | 365 | 467 |
| Rushing Attempts | 435 | 495 |
| Average Per Rush | 5.6 | 3.2 |
| Average Per Game | 186.2 | 122.2 |
| TDs Rushing | 22 | 16 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2467 | 2509 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 397-209-10 | 432-223-24 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.2 | 5.8 |
| Average Per Catch | 11.8 | 11.3 |
| Average Per Game | 189.8 | 193.0 |
| TDs Passing | 25 | 12 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4888 | 4098 |
| Total Plays | 832 | 927 |
| Average Per Play | 5.9 | 4.4 |
| Average Per Game | 376.0 | 315.2 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 43-877 | 66-1352 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 38-448 | 23-284 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 24-419 | 10-184 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | CALIFORNIA | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 20.4 | 20.5 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 11.8 | 12.3 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 17.5 | 18.4 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 16-9 | 28-10 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 77-649 | 75-647 |
| Average Per Game | 49.9 | 49.8 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 74-3087 | 79-3190 |
| Average Per Punt | 41.7 | 40.4 |
| Net punt average | 36.0 | 33.2 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 29:06 | 30:47 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 47/159 | 61/197 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 30% | 31% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 5/14 | 7/22 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 36% | 32% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 35-270 | 25-183 |
| MISC YARDS | 75 | 4 |
| TDS SCORED | 54 | 33 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 15-21 | 10-17 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 53-53 | 31-32 |
| ATTENDANCE | 862874 | 520594 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 14/61634 | 10/52059 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 2/42268 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| California | 108 | 124 | 81 | 111 | 424 |
| Opponents | 40 | 65 | 86 | 68 | 259 |

stagnation at the position and a fourth-place league finish.

Longshore may be gone, but Riley is back for his junior year to compete for the starting job this fall with sophomore Brock Mansion and redshirt freshman Beau Sweeney.

Tedford declined to name a starter after spring practice, but Riley is the front-runner.

There is greater uncertainty about *how* Riley will play than *how much* he'll play. He's mobile and tough and can make good throws, but his accuracy has been an issue. With the help of Tedford and new offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig, Riley has tweaked his mechanics and hopes to improve on his efficiency rating (117.85) from last year.

The Bears lost All-America center Alex Mack and guard Noris Malele but have veteran replacements at both spots and should be solid on the offensive line.

Like Riley, the receivers are experienced but must become more efficient by catching a higher percentage of passes and running crisper routes. Six players are competing for playing time at wide receiver. Although sophomore Marvin Jones had the best spring, all the Bears need is for one impact player to emerge and make defenses pay for stacking the line to stop Best from running the ball.

There's also a hole at tight end after junior Cameron Morrah (8 TDs) surprised the coaches by declaring early for the NFL draft.

Defensively, the Bears are set at nine spots, as the only holes in their 3-4 alignment are at linebacker. Depending on their success filling those spots, coordinator Bob Gregory's unit could be better than last year's, which was fourth in the Pac-10 in total defense, second in scoring defense and first in takeaways.

Cal has all-conference talent on every level, from end Tyson Alualu to linebacker Michael Mohamed and cornerback Syd'Quan Thompson.

The line is so good that Alualu, a second-team all-conference pick, isn't the most talented player.

That would be junior end Cameron Jordan, who had 11 tackles for loss in '08 despite not playing full time.

Mohamed, who didn't start last season but was Cal's No. 3 tackler, will handle one of the inside-linebacking positions. Eddie Young is back as a starter at an outside spot, although he is expected to be pushed by several junior-college players arriving in the fall. The other inside position could go to sophomore Mychal Kendricks, while the front-runner for the other outside spot is Devin Bishop, the younger brother of former Cal linebacker Desmond Bishop.

## RECRUITING REPORT

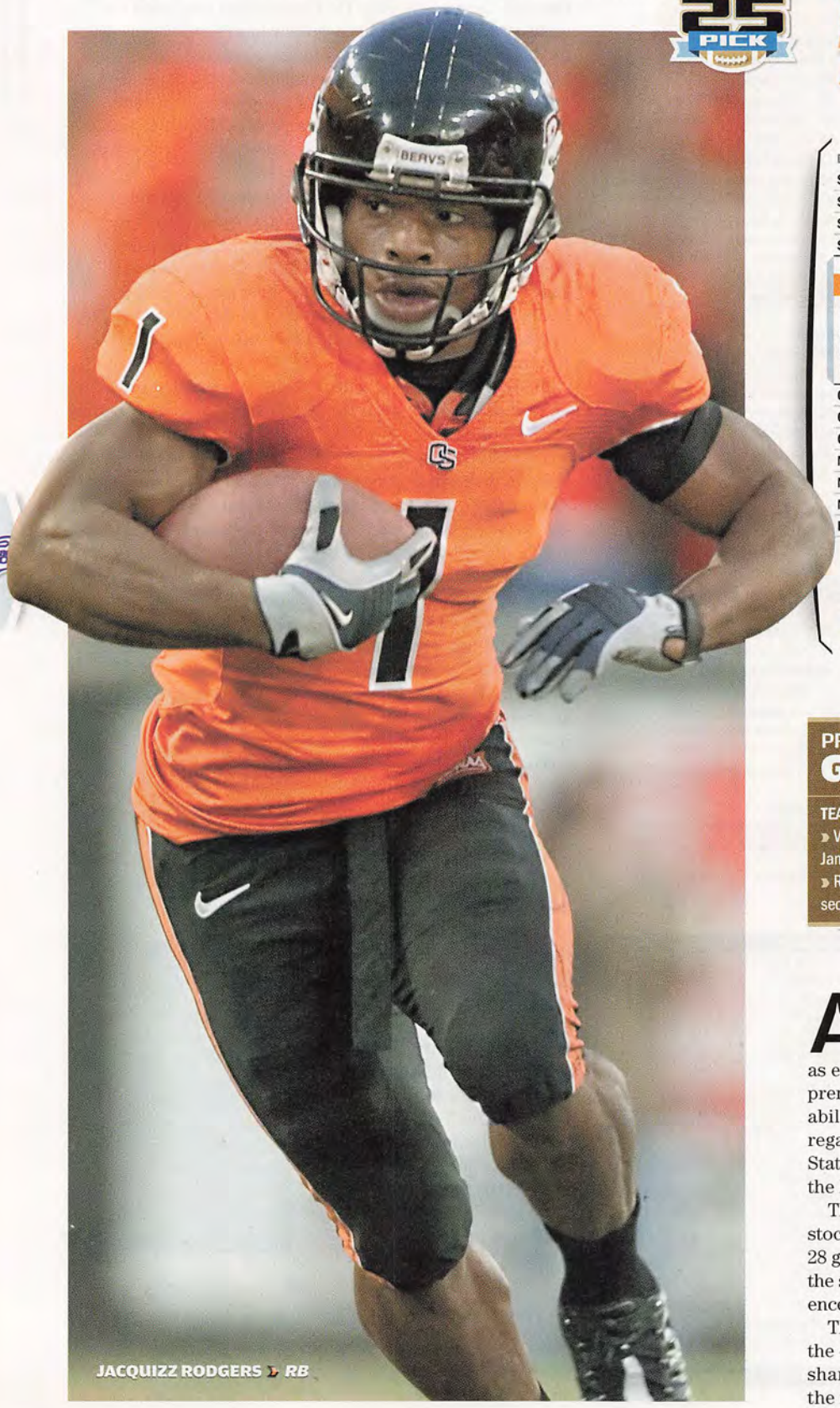
Cal continues to produce solid recruiting classes. While it is a smaller group compared to others in the conference, it has headline recruits such as four-star lineman **Deandre Coleman**, four-star linebacker **Jarred Price** and four-star cornerback **Steve Williams**. The Golden Bears did a nice job of adding high-quality offensive linemen and a great group of defensive backs. They also landed one of the nation's best running backs in **Dasarte Yarnway**, a solid between-the-tackles runner who has a nice burst.
*—Jeremy Crabtree*, Rivals.com

## THE NEXT BIG THING *MICHAEL MOHAMED, ILB*

The inside linebacker was named honorable-mention all-conference last year despite not starting and filling several roles. As an every-down player in '09, he should be one of the best in the league.

# 4 OREGON STATE BEAVERS

TOP 25 PICK



JACQUIZZ RODGERS » RB

JAY DROWNS

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Portland State | |
| S.12 | @UNLV | |
| S.19 | Cincinnati | |
| S.26 | Arizona | 19-17 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **0.3** | **@ARIZONA STATE** | **27-25** |
| A victory in the conference road opener would signal the Beavers are once again a contender. But a loss, especially a bad one, would indicate the team isn't ready for prime time. | | |
| 0.10 | Stanford | 28-36 |
| 0.24 | @USC | 27-21 |
| 0.31 | UCLA | 34-6 |
| N.7 | @CALIFORNIA | 34-21 |
| N.14 | Washington | 34-13 |
| N.21 | @WASHINGTON STATE | 66-13 |
| D.3 | @OREGON | 38-65 |

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» SUN BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE » B+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» Veteran quarterback and the Rodgers brothers, James and Jacquizz, are excellent on offense.
» Rebuilt defense that lost the entire starting secondary will hurt.

Any other team facing Oregon State's challenges would be picked fifth, perhaps as low as eighth. But the Beavers deserve a premium based on coach Mike Riley's ability to produce winning teams, regardless of personnel losses. Oregon State is the only consistent winner in the Pac-10, with the exception of USC.

The program that was the laughingstock of the league for decades has won 28 games over the past three seasons, the second-highest total in the conference.

There are a couple of reasons for the continued success. Riley has a sharp eye for overlooked talent on the recruiting trail. He and defensive

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

Jeremiah Masoli

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | 131.96 | 239-136-5 | 56.9 | 1744 | 13 | 145.3 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LeGarrette Blount | 13 | 137 | 1002 | 7.3 | 17 | 77.1 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jeff Maehl | 13 | 39 | 421 | 10.8 | 5 | 32.4 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| T.J. Ward | 13 | 64 | 37 | 101 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Will Tukuafu | 13 | 7.5 | 46 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Walter Thurmond | 5 | 67 | 13.4 | 1 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-4
**Pac-10:** 7-2
*(beat Pittsburgh in the Sun Bowl, 3-0)*

**Coach:** Mike Riley
9th year (56-42)
**Career record:** 56-42
**Offensive coordinator:**
Danny Langsdorf (5th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Mark Banker (7th year)

**Stadium:** Reser Stadium (45,674)
**Tickets:** 800-GO-BEAVS
**Site:** Corvallis
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.osubeavers.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 5 | Sean Canfield (6-4, 220, Sr.) |
| | 3 | Lyle Moevao (5-11, 220, Sr.) |
| RB | 1 | Jacquizz Rodgers (5-7, 193, So.) |
| | 24 | Ryan McCants (6-1, 240, So.) |
| LOT | 50 | Mike Remmers (6-4, 286, So.) |
| | 64 | Colin Kelly (6-4, 266, r-Fr.) |
| LOG | 61 | Mike Lamb (6-3, 276, So.) |
| | 71 | Brent McNeil (6-3, 325, Jr.) |
| C | 60 | Alex Linnenkohl (6-2, 288, Jr.) |
| | 70 | Grant Johnson (6-3, 265, So.) |
| ROG | 73 | Gregg Peat (6-3, 296, Sr.) |
| | 74 | Burke Ellis (6-4, 249, So.) |
| ROT | 72 | Timi Oshinowo (6-6, 283, Jr.) |
| | 64 | Colin Kelly (6-4, 266, Fr.) |
| TE | 88 | Howard Croom (6-3, 254, Sr.) |
| | 83 | Brady Camp (6-4, 258, Jr.) |
| WR | 15 | Darrell Catchings (5-11, 179, Jr.) |
| | 80 | Damola Adeniji (6-3, 219, Sr.) |
| WR | 85 | John Reese (6-3, 240, Sr.) |
| | 87 | Joe Halahuni (6-2, 254, So.) |
| WR | 8 | James Rodgers (5-7, 185, Jr.) |
| | 84 | Taylor Kavanaugh (5-10, 175, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 55 | Ben Terry (6-2, 243, Sr.) |
| | 81 | Gabe Miller (6-3, 231, Jr.) |
| LDT | 54 | Stephen Paea (6-1, 293, Jr.) |
| | 97 | Sioeli Nau (6-2, 307, Sr.) |
| RDT | 92 | Mitchel Hunt (6-2, 271, Jr.) |
| | 78 | Brennan Olander (6-1, 274, Jr.) |
| RDE | 74 | Kevin Frahm (6-2, 255, So.) |
| | 77 | Evan Hull (6-4, 256, Jr.) |
| SLB | 32 | Keaton Kristick (6-3, 226, Sr.) |
| | 29 | Zane Norris (6-2, 200, Fr.) |
| MLB | 45 | David Pa'aluhi (5-11, 230, So.) |
| | 43 | Tony Wilson (6-1, 219, Fr.) |
| WLB | 35 | Keith Pankey (6-0, 211, Jr.) |
| | 59 | Dwight Roberson (6-0, 238, Jr.) |
| LCB | 21 | Tim Clark (6-0, 170, Sr.) |
| | 4 | James Dockery (6-1, 175, Jr.) |
| RCB | 3 | Patrick Henderson (5-10, 175, Sr.) |
| | 17 | Brandon Hardin (6-2, 206, So.) |
| FS | 10 | Lance Mitchell (6-2, 205, So.) |
| | 26 | Josh LaGrone (6-1, 181, Fr.) |
| SS | 28 | Suaesi Tuimaunei (6-1, 208, Jr.) |
| | 5 | Cameron Collins (6-2, 216, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 27 | Justin Kahut (5-8, 158, Jr.) |
| P | 7 | Johnny Hekker (6-5, 211, So.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | OSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 397 | 300 |
| Points Per Game | 30.5 | 23.1 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 280 | 206 |
| Rushing | 120 | 86 |
| Passing | 142 | 103 |
| Penalty | 18 | 17 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2055 | 1706 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2401 | 2167 |
| Yards lost rushing | 346 | 461 |
| Rushing Attempts | 487 | 454 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.2 | 3.8 |
| Average Per Game | 158.1 | 131.2 |
| TDs Rushing | 21 | 15 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 3237 | 2352 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 448-270-15 | 354-183-13 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.2 | 6.6 |
| Average Per Catch | 12.0 | 12.9 |
| Average Per Game | 249.0 | 180.9 |
| TDs Passing | 25 | 15 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5292 | 4058 |
| Total Plays | 935 | 808 |
| Average Per Play | 5.7 | 5.0 |
| Average Per Game | 407.1 | 312.2 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 47-1102 | 73-1363 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 40-393 | 23-231 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 13-186 | 15-289 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | OSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 23.4 | 18.7 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 9.8 | 10.0 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 14.3 | 19.3 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 18-6 | 26-9 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 87-738 | 93-847 |
| Average Per Game | 56.8 | 65.2 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 60-2355 | 78-3293 |
| Average Per Punt | 39.2 | 42.2 |
| Net punt average | 33.1 | 34.4 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 32:05 | 27:55 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 72/183 | 52/175 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 39% | 30% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 10/16 | 7/14 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 62% | 50% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 39-275 | 21-162 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 50 | 35 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 17-26 | 18-25 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 44-47 | 32-33 |
| ATTENDANCE | 269584 | 379958 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/44931 | 6/63326 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/49037 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oregon State | 76 | 96 | 109 | 116 | 397 |
| Opponent | 57 | 104 | 63 | 76 | 300 |

coordinator Mark Banker put together schemes that make the most of their personnel. And despite the personnel losses, the Beavers have the Rodgers brothers—tailback Jacquizz and wideout James—plus options at quarterback.

The first look at QB will go to senior Sean Canfield, who was the '07 starter. But because of a shoulder injury, he lost his job last fall to Lyle Moevao, who directed the Beavers to victory after victory and may not want to relinquish the role. However, Moevao's status for training camp was uncertain because of his own shoulder injury. If he isn't ready for the opener, then Canfield will be back under center.

Whether it's Canfield or Moevao, there's a good option in the backfield in sophomore Jacquizz Rodgers, the league's top rusher and 2008 Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Year. Rodgers has a terrific sense for finding gaps and hiding behind his blockers, and his low center of gravity makes him difficult to corral.

His older brother, James, is back at receiver after suffering a broken collarbone against Oregon last year, so expect more potent fly sweeps from the Beavers. His return will offset the departures of wideout Sammie Stroughter and dependable slot receiver Shane Morales. Redshirt freshman Jordan Bishop is a major talent who may not see much time this year, but since the receiving unit is one of two big questions offensively, it's possible.

The other question is the left side of the line, where OSU must replace all-leaguers Andy Levitre and Adam Speer. The early front-runners for the left guard and tackle spots were sophomores Mike Remmers and Mike Lamb, respectively, but don't discount the chances of redshit freshman Colin Kelly.

It's worth noting that while the back end of the Beavers' schedule is brutal, the first half is manageable. That should allow the new linemen and receivers to find their comfort zones and avoid another slow start.

It should also help the rebuilt defense. Gone is the entire secondary and ends Victor Butler and Slade Norris, who had 22 sacks between them last year. Senior Ben Terry and sophomore Kevin Frahm are projected to take over up front and join returning tackle Stephen Paea, one of the league's best interior defensive linemen.

The middle linebacker is projected to be sophomore David Pa'aluhi, a Hawaiian kickboxer who played one season of high school football. Oregon State is set on the outside with returning starters Keith Pankey and Keaton Kristick.

The secondary loses Keenan Lewis and Brandon Hughes, both NFL-caliber cornerbacks. Tim Clark should fill one hole and there are options on the other side, including 6-2 Brandon Hardin.

## RECRUITING REPORT

This class was overshadowed by others in the conference. But Beavers coaches do a tremendous job of evaluating players and making sure—perhaps better than any team in the conference—that the ones they recruit fit their style of play. There will be a major influx of overall athletic ability with this group. The line class will compete with the likes of UCLA's as one of the best in the Pac-10. Landing guard **Michael Philipp** was about as big as it gets for any team in the conference. He was No. 1 in the nation at his position.

*—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *STEPHEN PAEA, DT*

The 293-pound junior is one of the top run-stoppers in the Pac-10. One of the reasons ends Victor Butler and Slade Norris combined for 22 sacks last season was Paea's presence in the middle of the line, occupying blockers.

# 5 UCLA BRUINS

The most improved team in the Pac-10 has no proven quarterback, major questions along the offensive line, a new tailback, a huge hole on the defensive line, a young secondary and a new defensive coordinator. And to top it all off, it might have to rely on a slew of true freshmen this fall.

And yet no team—not even winless Washington—is poised to make a bigger jump in 2009 than UCLA, which finished eighth last season in league standings.

With a few roster upgrades made by second-year coach Rick Neuheisel and 17 starters returning, there's a chance UCLA could do well in the Pac-10 .

The Bruins averaged 283.2 yards per game last season, had the worst running game in the conference, tossed a league-high 21 interceptions and allowed a whopping 35 sacks. Their starting quarterback was a mistake machine and the Bruins' top runner averaged only 39.7 yards per game.

The upgrades begin at quarterback. Kevin Craft, who started every game and threw 20 interceptions in '08, is back for his senior year. But if he's starting the opener, something has gone wrong. The projected starter is instead redshirt freshman Kevin Prince, who possesses a stronger arm than Craft, but is untested in a college atmosphere.

"We have to play the quarterback position better than we did a year ago, and I'm confident that we will," Neuheisel says.

Prince won't need pinpoint precision because of his big targets. Five members of the wideout rotation are 6-3 or taller, and the smallest, 5-11 Terrence Austin, set a school record for all-purpose yards (1,878) last season.

But UCLA's best weapon might be true freshman Morrell Presley, who was the consensus No. 1 tight-end recruit in the country.

There's also a young but talented group of tailbacks that includes Christian Ramirez, Aundre Dean and Milton Knox.

The offensive line, which Neuheisel deemed "a major area of concern," should be better with the addition of junior-college transfer Ryan Taylor and tackle Sean Sheller, who missed last season after being injured in a vehicle accident.

The key for the offense is to not lose games, as the defense should be good enough to win its share.

The Bruins have all-conference talent in junior tackle Brian Price, senior linebacker Reggie Carter and senior cornerback Alterraun Verner.

Price is the top interior lineman in the league and one of the best in the country.

"We expect him to have a spectacular season," Neuheisel says.

Carter, who mans the middle, made 83 tackles last season and was a second-team all-league selection. He's flanked by Kyle Bosworth (brother of starting end Korey) and either Akeem Ayers or Steve Sloan. Defensive coordinator Chuck Bullough, who takes over for DeWayne Walker, will have plenty of options.

Verner is a lock to start at cornerback.

TERRENCE AUSTIN » WR

GEORGE HOLLAND / CSM

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***MORRELL PRESLEY, TE***

Presley is only a freshman, but he's expected to be one of UCLA's top playmakers and, eventually, a dominant force in the conference. Ink him into the first round of the 2012 NFL draft.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 4-8
**Pac-10:** 3-6

**Coach:** Rick Neuheisel
2nd (4-8)
**Career record:** 70-38
**Offensive coordinator:**
Norm Chow (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Chuck Bullough (1st year)

**Stadium:** Rose Bowl (91,500)
**Tickets:** 310-UCLA-WIN
**Site:** Los Angeles
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.uclabruins.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | San Diego State | |
| S.12 | @TENNESSEE | 27-24 (OT) |
| S.19 | Kansas State | |
| O.3 | @STANFORD | 23-20 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **O.10** | **Oregon** | **24-31** |
| One week before facing rival Cal, the Bruins take on a Pac-10 heavyweight in a game that should indicate whether they're a legitimate bowl contender. | | |
| O.17 | California | 20-41 |
| O.24 | @ARIZONA | 10-31 |
| O.31 | @OREGON STATE | 6-34 |
| N.7 | Washington | 27-7 |
| N.14 | @WASHINGTON STATE | 28-3 |
| N.21 | Arizona State | 9-34 |
| N.28 | @USC | 7-28 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** MIDDLE TIER BOWL
» POINSETTIA BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Big, veteran receivers.
- Playmakers throughout the defense.
- Questions at QB and offensive line.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 14 | Kevin Prince (6-2, 226, r-Fr.) |
| FB | 50 | Chase Moline (6-2, 255, Sr.) |
| RB | 24 | Christian Ramirez (6-2, 212, Jr.) |
| LOT | 72 | Sean Sheller (6-5, 290, Jr.) |
| LOG | 66 | Ryan Taylor (6-3, 305, Jr.) |
| C | 51 | Kai Maiava (6-1, 311, So.) |
| ROG | 75 | Nick Ekbatani (6-5, 294, Sr.) |
| ROT | 68 | Nate Chandler (6-5, 271, So.) |
| TE | 7 | Morrell Presley (6-4, 222, Fr.) |
| WR | 19 | Dominique Johnson (6-3, 207, Jr.) |
| WR | 4 | Terrence Austin (5-11, 161, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 91 | Reginald Stokes (6-3, 243, Jr.) |
| LDT | 92 | Brian Price (6-2, 300, Jr.) |
| RDT | 90 | Jerzy Siewierski (6-2, 285, Sr.) |
| RDE | 55 | Korey Bosworth (6-1, 244, Sr.) |
| SLB | 40 | Akeem Ayers (6-4, 234, So.) |
| MLB | 51 | Reggie Carter (6-1, 220, Sr.) |
| WLB | 54 | Kyle Bosworth (6-1, 233, Sr.) |
| LCB | 9 | Aaron Hester (6-1, 189, Fr.) |
| RCB | 1 | Alterraun Verner (5-11, 177, Sr.) |
| FS | 3 | Rahim Moore (6-1, 176, So.) |
| SS | 20 | Glenn Love (6-4, 200, So.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 25 | Kai Forbath (6-0, 198, Jr.) |
| P | 49 | Jeff Locke (6-1, 198, Fr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Randall Carroll**
*ATH, 5-10, 175*
Originally a USC commitment, Carroll is a speedster who can play wide receiver or corner.

**2 — Xavier Su'a Filo**
*OL, 6-4, 285*
One of the top offensive linemen in the nation, he could project at any of the line positions.

**3 — Richard Brehaut**
*QB, 6-2, 206*
Brehaut enrolled early and wowed at UCLA's spring practices with his strong arm. He could be UCLA's future star.

**4 — Stanley Hasiak**
*G, 6-6, 320*
He was one of the nation's best pure guards, and is a steal from Hawaii.

**5 — Morrell Presley**
*TE, 6-4, 222*
A combination tight end/wide receiver, Presley will cause matchup problems no matter where he lines up.

# ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Idaho State | |
| S.19 | Louisiana-Monroe | |
| S.26 | @GEORGIA | 10-27 |
| 0.3 | Oregon State | 25-27 |
| 0.10 | @WASHINGTON STATE | 31-0 |
| 0.17 | Washington | 39-19 |
| 0.24 | @STANFORD | 41-17 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**0.31 California** 14-24

If the Sun Devils are in the bowl hunt and Cal is in the Pac-10 title chase, this would be a huge game for both teams. The Golden Bears have dominated the series lately.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| N.7 | USC | 0-28 |
| N.14 | @OREGON | 20-54 |
| N.21 | @UCLA | 34-9 |
| N.28 | Arizona | 10-31 |

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» EMERALD BOWL

LOWER TIER BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- New, untested quarterback.
- Major concerns about the running game.
- A tough schedule that includes a trip to Georgia.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 15 | Danny Sullivan (6-5, 238, Sr.) |
| RB | 31 | Dimitri Nance (5-10, 220, Sr.) |
| LOT | 67 | Shawn Lauvao (6-3, 305, Sr.) |
| LOG | 59 | Jon Hargis (6-4, 310, Jr.) |
| C | 52 | Garth Gerhart (6-1, 305, So.) |
| ROG | 73 | Zach Schlink (6-4, 330, So.) |
| ROT | 74 | Tom Njunge (6-5, 276, Sr.) |
| TE | 84 | Jovon Williams (6-4, 231, Jr.) |
| WR | 5 | Kerry Taylor (6-0, 191, Jr.) |
| WR | 6 | Kyle Williams (5-10, 185, Sr.) |
| WR | 13 | Chris McGaha (6-1, 193, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 34 | James Brooks (6-4, 270, So.) |
| LDT | 50 | Lawrence Guy (6-5, 270, So.) |
| RDT | 77 | Saia Falahola (6-2, 310, Jr.) |
| RDE | 58 | Dexter Davis (6-2, 252, Sr.) |
| SLB | 41 | Shelly Lyons (6-2, 225, So.) |
| MLB | 44 | Travis Goethel (6-3, 233, Sr.) |
| WLB | 25 | Mike Nixon (6-3, 227, Sr.) |
| LCB | 3 | Omar Bolden (5-10, 194, Jr.) |
| RCB | 5 | Terell Carr (5-9, 180, Sr.) |
| FS | 9 | Clint Floyd (5-10, 180, So.) |
| SS | 2 | Ryan McFoy (6-2, 218, Sr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 28 | Thomas Weber (6-1, 205, Jr.) |
| P | 28 | Thomas Weber (6-1, 205, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7
**Pac-10:** 4-5

**Coach:** Dennis Erickson
3rd year (15-10)
**Career record:** 163-75-1
**Offensive coordinator:**
Rich Olson (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Craig Bray (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Sun Devil Stadium (71,706)
**Tickets:** 480-727-0000
**Site:** Tempe
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.thesundevils.com

CHRIS McGAHA » WR

JAY DROWNS / SN

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

Arizona State might seem like a tough program to read. In 2007, the Sun Devils did much better than expected during coach Dennis Erickson's first season. But last year ASU disappointed after being viewed as a BCS bowl contender.

This year, all bets are off, as the Sun Devils are the only ones who can predict their own fate. The Devils' fate depends on their ability to replace quarterback Rudy Carpenter, a four-year starter. Compared to the quarterback issues at Arizona and UCLA, Arizona State seems to be in decent shape. Danny Sullivan, a senior with 25 career appearances but no starts under center, enters training camp as the front-runner. Luckily, Sullivan has what any first-time starter would want—a veteran offensive line.

The anchor is left tackle Shawn Lauvao, an all-conference candidate. Jon Hargis can play either guard or tackle. At center the Devils have two options in returning starter Thomas Altieri and sophomore Garth Gerhart.

Sophomore Zach Schlink should handle one of the guard spots, while Tom Njunge is a decent bet for right tackle. Those six give ASU one of the most experienced offensive lines in the league.

And the Devils will need every ounce of that experience to jump-start an anemic rushing attack. ASU averaged just 89.1 yards per game on the ground last year and, even worse, scored just seven rushing touchdowns.

Rather than rely on a single superb talent, the Devils will probably rotate multiskilled threat Shaun DeWitty, power runners Dimitri Nance and Jarrell Woods and potential playmaker Ryan Bass.

If they succeed in creating the illusion of a balanced attack, then the receivers should flourish.

This year's pass catchers are a talented group, and their strength lies in their diversity. There's surehanded senior Chris McGaha, big-play threat Kyle Williams and hybrid Kerry Taylor.

In truth, the offense's greatest asset might be the Arizona State defense, which has improved in recent years. The unit allowed just 22.7 points per game last season and could be even better this fall.

The top talent is end Dexter Davis, the only active player in the nation to have recorded 10 sacks or more in each of the past two seasons. The Sun Devils must find a replacement for tackle David Smith and end Luis Vasquez, but there are more than enough pieces to form an adequate line.

The strength of the defense, other than Davis, is the back seven. The linebackers are experienced and athletic, especially Mike Nixon, who spent three years in the Los Angeles Dodgers' minor league system before arriving in Tempe.

He'll be joined by Travis Goethal, Shelly Lyons, Brandon Magee and Oliver Aaron, plus freshman Vontaze Burfict, the No. 1 linebacker recruit in the country.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***VONTAZE BURFICT, LB***

Eventually, the 245-pound freshman is going to be an impact player. The highly rated prep linebacker surprised many fans and recruiting analysts by picking the Sun Devils over USC. He's got a great chance to get on the field early and often in Tempe.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 Vontaze Burfict**
*LB, 6-2, 244*
The nation's No. 1 linebacker, he was a late switch from USC to Arizona State.

**2 Corey Adams**
*DT, 6-3, 277*
Adams was a must-get in-state prospect, and he was one of the premier pass-rushing tackles in the nation.

**3 Osahon Irabor**
*CB, 5-10, 178*
He blossomed as a senior and became one of the best players in California.

**4 Brock Osweiler**
*QB, 6-8, 235*
The early enrollee impressed in Arizona State's spring practices and appears to be the quarterback of the future.

**5 Jamal Miles**
*RB, 5-10, 180*
One of the top players in Arizona, Miles is good fit for Arizona State's offense.

# 7 STANFORD CARDINAL

Third-year coach Jim Harbaugh has returned the Cardinal to respectability. So, now it's a matter of winning that elusive sixth game and becoming bowl-eligible.

And that's possible with 16 returning starters, a count that includes running back Toby Gerhart, assuming he is not selected in this summer's Major League Baseball draft. Last year, the 237-pounder rushed for 1,136 yards and 15 touchdowns, and served as a pressure release for the quarterback.

If Gerhart comes back, he would open up the passing game for Andrew Luck, who threw five touchdowns in Stanford's spring game and is expected to win the starting job early in training camp. The son of former NFL quarterback Oliver Luck, he's the most gifted quarterback on The Farm since Trent Edwards.

A revamped offensive line must replace two all-conference players in center Alex Fletcher and tackle Ben Muth. The end result of spring shuffling was a starting five that included one redshirt freshman (guard David DeCastro) and three others in new positions.

There's a thin margin for error at receiver due to the lack of proven playmakers. Junior Ryan Whalen is the most reliable wideout, while junior Doug Baldwin and sophomore Chris Owusu have the speed to stretch defenses. Senior Richard Sherman spent the spring at both receiver and cornerback, as Harbaugh is experimenting with two-way players in an attempt to get the best players on the field as often as possible.

In addition to Sherman, Stanford might use fullback Owen Marecic as a middle linebacker. Receiver/running back Michael Thomas might start at cornerback, and linebacker Alex Debniak could spend time at running back, especially if Gerhart doesn't return.

Sherman looked good on both sides of the ball in the spring game, with eight tackles and two touchdowns. How he's used during the season depends on need. But if Sherman is focused and healthy, he gives Stanford an impact player at receiver.

Beyond the two-way players are several who changed positions from last season. Delano Howell, a former running back, is expected to start at strong safety alongside steady free safety Bo McNally. Of course, the movement of offensive skill players to the secondary says much about the Cardinal's poor existing options in the backfield. In addition to a hole at strong safety, Stanford needs two cornerbacks.

Ends Erik Lorig, Tom Keiser and Tom McAndrew combined for 12 sacks last season. Meanwhile, tackles Ekom Udofia, Matthew Masifilo and Sione Fua form an interior line that's the envy of most teams in the conference.

Stanford is in decent shape at linebacker with Clinton Snyder in the middle, but there are questions at both outside positions—the biggest being if Chike Amajoyi or Max Bergen can replace Pat Maynor on the weak side.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***DAVID DeCASTRO, G***

The Cardinal expect the redshirt-freshman guard to be a mainstay of their offensive line for years to come. The only question is whether the former top recruit from Bellevue, Wash., wil develop into a first-rate lineman this season or next year.

TOBY GERHART ▸ RB

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @WASHINGTON STATE | 58-0 |
| S.12 | @WAKE FOREST | |
| S.19 | San Jose State | 23-10 |
| S.26 | Washington | 35-28 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| 0.3 | UCLA | 20-23 |

A must-win game for Stanford that precedes back-to-back road games at Oregon State and Arizona. A loss here would set the stage for a lengthy midseason skid that could knock the Cardinal out of the bowl picture.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0.10 | @OREGON STATE | 36-28 |
| 0.17 | @ARIZONA | 24-23 |
| 0.24 | Arizona State | 17-41 |
| N.7 | Oregon | 28-35 |
| N.14 | @USC | 23-45 |
| N.21 | California | 16-37 |
| N.28 | Notre Dame | 21-28 |

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

▸ The Cardinal has unproven quarterbacks and receivers and holes at both cornerback spots.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7
**Pac-10:** 4-5

**Coach:** Jim Harbaugh
3rd year (9-15)
**Career record:** 9-15 (FBS)
**Offensive coordinator:**
David Shaw (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinators:**
Andy Buh (1st year)
Ron Lynn (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Stanford Stadium (50,000)
**Tickets:** 800-STANFORD
**Site:** Stanford, Calif.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.gostanford.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

KEY

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 12 | Andrew Luck (6-4, 241, So.) |
| FB | 48 | Owen Marecic (6-1, 241, Jr.) |
| RB | 7 | Toby Gerhart (6-1, 237, Sr.) |
| LOT | 61 | Matt Kopa (6-6, 297, Sr.) |
| LOG | 71 | Andrew Phillips (6-5, 294, Jr.) |
| C | 72 | Chase Beeler (6-3, 276, Jr.) |
| ROG | 52 | David DeCastro (6-5, 307, Fr.) |
| ROT | 63 | Chris Marinelli (6-7, 298, Sr.) |
| TE | 83 | Jim Dray (6-5, 253, Sr.) |
| WR | 8 | Ryan Whalen (6-2, 203, Jr.) |
| WR | 89 | Doug Baldwin (5-11, 189, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 94 | Tom Keiser (6-5, 253, So.) |
| LDT | 98 | Matthew Masifilo (6-3, 264, So.) |
| RDT | 54 | Ekom Udofia (6-2, 322, Sr.) |
| RDE | 80 | Erik Lorig (6-4, 265, Sr.) |
| SLB | 42 | Will Powers (6-4, 244, Sr.) |
| MLB | 20 | Clinton Snyder (6-4, 231, Sr.) |
| WLB | 43 | Chike Amajoyi (6-0, 233, Jr.) |
| LCB | 2 | Corey Gatewood (5-11, 191, Jr.) |
| RCB | 3 | Michael Thomas (5-11, 188, So.) |
| FS | 22 | Bo McNally (6-0, 210, Sr.) |
| SS | 26 | Delano Howell (5-11, 195, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 18 | Travis Golia (6-0, 192, So.) |
| P | 38 | David Green (6-1, 199, So.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** **Shayne Skov** *LB, 6-2, 235* One of the nation's top linebacker prospects, Skov should help the Cardinal immediately.

**2** **Jemari Roberts** *WR, 6-3, 205* He developed into one of the nation's most consistent and surehanded receivers as a senior.

**3** **Tyler Gaffney** *RB, 6-1, 215* A throwback "big running back," Gaffney can block and catch, and he is tough to stop between the tackles.

**4** **Terrence Stephens** *DT, 6-2, 285* A physical force inside, Stephens was one of the most athletic defensive linemen in the East.

**5** **Levine Toilolo** *TE, 6-8, 239* Toilolo was a tight end and defensive end in high school, but he could develop into a future franchise offensive tackle.

JAY DROWNS / SN

# ARIZONA WILDCATS 8

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Central Michigan | |
| S.12 | Northern Arizona | |
| S.19 | @IOWA | |
| S.26 | @OREGON STATE | 17-19 |
| O.10 | @WASHINGTON | 48-14 |
| O.17 | Stanford | 23-24 |
| O.24 | UCLA | 31-10 |
| N.7 | Washington State | 59-28 |
| N.14 | @CALIFORNIA | 42-27 |
| N.21 | Oregon | 45-55 |
| N.28 | @ARIZONA STATE | 31-10 |

### GAME TO WATCH

**D.5 @USC 10-17**

The Wildcats end the season not against archrival Arizona State but in the Coliseum on national television. The stakes will be high (at least for the home team).

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- There is speed and skill at tailback and receiver.
- Quarterback is unproven.
- Staple is hard-charging defense.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 4 | Matt Scott (6-3, 190, So.) |
| RB | 5 | Nic Grigsby (5-10, 190, Jr.) |
| RB | 37 | Chris Gronkowski (6-2, 235, Sr.) |
| LOT | 67 | Phillip Garcia (6-7, 325, Jr.) |
| LOG | 74 | Mike Diaz (6-5, 320, Sr.) |
| C | 64 | Colin Baxter (6-4, 295, Jr.) |
| ROG | 70 | Vaughn Dotsy (6-5, 355, So.) |
| ROT | 78 | Adam Grant (6-6, 325, Sr.) |
| TE | 48 | Rob Gronkowski (6-6, 265, Jr.) |
| WR | 84 | Terrell Turner (6-2, 190, Sr.) |
| WR | 18 | Delashaun Dean (6-4, 202, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 44 | Ricky Elmore (6-5, 250, Jr.) |
| LDT | 49 | Earl Mitchell (6-2, 295, Sr.) |
| RDT | 99 | Kaniela Tuipulotu (6-2, 300, Jr.) |
| RDE | 42 | Brooks Reed (6-3, 255, Jr.) |
| SLB | 52 | Sterling Lewis (5-11, 225, Sr.) |
| MLB | 8 | Vuna Tuihalamaka (6-2, 230, Sr.) |
| WLB | 15 | Xavier Kelley (5-11, 215, Sr.) |
| LCB | 6 | Devin Ross (5-11, 175, Sr.) |
| RCB | 24 | Trevin Wade (5-11, 182, So.) |
| FS | 20 | Cam Nelson (6-1, 202, Sr.) |
| SS | 1 | Robert Golden (5-11, 190, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 14 | Alex Zendejas (5-11, 190, So.) |
| P | 47 | Keenyn Crier (6-1, 200, Jr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5
**Pac-10:** 5-4
*(beat BYU in the Las Vegas Bowl, 31-21)*

**Coach:** Mike Stoops
6th year (25-36)
**Career record:** 25-36
**Offensive coordinator:**
Sonny Dykes (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Mark Stoops (6th year)

**Stadium:** Arizona Stadium (56,002)
**Tickets:** 800-452-CATS
**Site:** Tuscon
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.arizonaathletics.com

NIC GRIGSBY ▸ RB

GREGORY SHAMUS / GETTY IMAGES

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

For the first summer in many years, the Arizona football program has momentum.

The Wildcats are coming off an eight-win season that featured their first bowl appearance since 1998. They had a quiet, injury-free spring and return seven starters on both offense and defense. And Arizona opens the season with two home games and several of the most talented players in the conference. This is a terrific chance to build on the offseason mojo before entering the meat of the schedule.

Given a few breaks and some decent play at quarterback, the Wildcats could finish in the upper half of the Pac-10. But there are some questions that need to be addressed.

Coach Mike Stoops has posted one winning season in five years on the job. Has he grown into a mature, stable coach? Or was '08 an aberration, with the Stoops of old—manic on the sideline, prone to terrible game management—poised to make a dramatic return? Only time will tell.

Replacing Willie Tuitama at quarterback will also be a hard task. The contenders are Nick Foles and Matt Scott. Last season, Scott attempted 11 passes, while Foles hasn't thrown the ball in a game. Spring practice provided no resolution to their duel, which could extend into September.

Left tackle Eben Britton, a first-team all-conference selection, also needs to be replaced.

But Arizona does have a few weapons in the offensive backfield, which is good news.

The top two tailbacks, Nic Grigsby and Keola Antolin (1,678 combined rushing yards last season), both return, as does Rob Gronkowski (10 TDs), one of the most talented tight ends in the nation.

And while the Wildcats lost their top receiver, Mike Thomas, they have the pieces to offset his departure with Terrell Turner, Delashaun Dean and William Wright, a 5-9 sophomore who's effective beating opponents' defensive backs.

On defense, the line has been a problem for the Wildcats for years, but with experience returning to the unit, there's a chance they could hold their own.

Without Tuitama, Thomas and Britton, it's not reasonable to expect the Wildcats to duplicate their 2008 averages of 36.6 points per game and 4,024 yards. But with a stingy defense, they won't need a repeat of last year's offensive numbers.

The defensive front has been mediocre for years but returns all four starters, including junior end Brooks Reed.

The 'Cats must find two new starters at linebacker to join Xavier Kelley. One of them figures to be senior Sterling Lewis, who started five games and had 59 tackles a year ago.

The Wildcats have produced talented defensive backs since the Dick Tomey era and this season is no exception.

Cornerback Devin Ross and free safety Cam Nelson are a first-rate combinaton. They'll lead an impressionable secondary that includes sophomores Trevin Wade (cornerback) and Robert Golden (strong safety).

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***BROOKS REED, DE***

Reed could become one of the best-known defensive players in the conference by the end of this season. Last year, the 255-pound junior had one sack in the first six games and seven in the last seven matchups.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Adam Hall**
*ATH, 6-4, 195*
Hall could play receiver or safety in college, but there's no question he'll be an impact player.

**2 — Trevor Erno**
*LB, 6-0, 225*
A hard-hitting true inside linebacker who fits Mike Stoops' style of defense.

**3 — Daniel Jenkins**
*RB, 5-9, 171*
A true all-purpose back, Jenkins is a perfect fit for the Wildcats' offense.

**4 — Jonathan Hollins**
*DT, 6-3, 273*
He's a junior-college transfer who should help fill a big need at defensive tackle.

**5 — Jackson Powell**
*DE, 6-4, 215*
Once he adds weight, Powell has a great shot at being a pass-rush threat.

# 9 WASHINGTON HUSKIES

Yes, Seattle, it will get better, but not before it gets worse. Washington begins its season against powerhouse LSU. A probable loss here, and the Huskies will tie the Pac-10 record for consecutive losses with 15.

But the losing streak, which began late in 2007, should end in Week 2, when Washington plays host to Idaho.

The question is: What happens after Idaho?

Will the Huskies make significant improvement under first-year coach Steve Sarkisian?

Or will they revert to old times and flounder through another forgettable fall?

It's hard to imagine the Huskies won't get better, given they went 0-12 last season and lost nine games by 20 points or more.

Sarkisian has several factors working in his favor as he lays the foundation for a turnaround.

First, the schedule is more manageable than it was in '07 and '08 because of Idaho. At least there's one nonconference creampuff on this year's slate.

Second, Sarkisian should benefit from some decent young talent. Tyrone Willingham did not recruit well in Seattle until his final year, when he landed a top-15 class. Those prospects will be sophomores and redshirt freshmen this fall, and some of them could be impact players.

Finally, quarterback Jake Locker is expected to be healthy after missing the final eight games of '08 with a broken thumb, which means Sarkisian has one of the most talented players in the conference at his disposal.

Sarkisian's ability to transform Locker into a passer and good quarterback is essential to Washington's prospects and to his own future in Seattle.

Locker won't develop if he doesn't stay healthy, which means he must be judicious with his scrambling, receive solid protection from his offensive line and get help from the receivers and running backs. Until the Huskies prove they have other options for moving the ball, defenses will stack up to stop Locker.

One option is tailback Chris Polk, who played in just two games last season because of a shoulder injury, but should be 100 percent for the opener. He's a threat as a runner and receiver.

Another option is Kavario Middleton, who was *Superprep's* fourth-ranked tight end in the prep class of '08. Middleton caught just 12 passes last year as a result of Locker's injury and the struggles of replacement Ronnie Fouch.

With Locker, Polk, Bronson, Middleton and wide receiver D'Andre Goodwin (60 receptions), the team has playmakers.

Overall, Sarkisian will do well to win four games, but to do that he needs to find production among his young defenders and answer the questions on offense.

Otherwise, the Huskies may end up falling on their face again, winning just one or two games this season—which is still an improvement from last year.

JAKE LOCKER ▷ QB

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***JAKE LOCKER, QB***

Husky fans have been waiting three years for the junior quarterback to become a big thing. So far, he's been a "thing," showing flashes of brilliance while struggling with injuries and inconsistency. He has the potential to be the best quarterback in the conference.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | LSU | |
| S.12 | Idaho | |
| S.19 | USC | 0-56 |
| S.26 | @STANFORD | 28-35 |
| O.3 | @NOTRE DAME | 7-33 |
| **O.10** | **Arizona** | **14-48** |
| O.17 | @ARIZONA STATE | 19-39 |
| O.24 | Oregon | 10-44 |
| N.7 | @UCLA | 7-27 |
| N.14 | @OREGON STATE | 13-34 |
| N.28 | Washington State | 13-16 (OT) |
| D.5 | California | 7-48 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

If the Huskies don't take away a much-needed conference victory, their 2009 season could unravel the same as it did last year. A win is possible against Arizona.

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE D

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Huskies have a difficult schedule.
- Holes on both lines and in the secondary.
- Dearth of elite players.

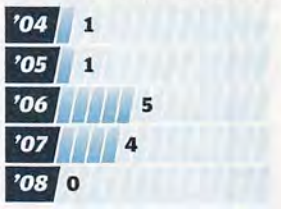
## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 0-12
**Pac-10:** 0-9

**Coach:** Steve Sarkisian, 1st year
**Offensive coordinator:** Doug Nussmeier (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:** Nick Holt (1st year)

**Stadium:** Husky Stadium (72,500)
**Tickets:** 206-543-2200
**Site:** Seattle
**Official athletic Web site:** www.gohuskies.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND




KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 10 | Jake Locker (6-3, 222, Jr.) |
| RB | 1 | Chris Polk (5-11, 200, r-Fr.) |
| LOT | 71 | Cody Habben (6-6, 316, Jr.) |
| LOG | 70 | Morgan Rosborough (6-6, 382, Sr.) |
| C | 64 | Matt Sedillo (6-3, 320, Jr.) |
| ROG | 65 | Ryan Tolar (6-5, 321, Jr.) |
| ROT | 67 | Skyler Fancher (6-5, 294, So.) |
| TE | 80 | Kavario Middleton (6-5, 255, So.) |
| WR | 9 | Devin Aguilar (6-0, 195, So.) |
| WR | 11 | D'Andre Goodwin (5-11, 175, Jr.) |
| WR | 15 | Jermaine Kearse (6-1, 180, So.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 66 | Daniel Te'o-Nesheim (6-4, 263, Sr.) |
| LDT | 74 | Alameda Ta'amu (6-2, 348, So.) |
| RDT | 93 | Senio Kelemete (6-4, 260, So.) |
| RDE | 59 | Darrion Jones (6-2, 245, Sr.) |
| SLB | 22 | EJ Savannah (6-1, 210, Sr.) |
| MLB | 9 | Donald Butler (6-1, 242, Sr.) |
| WLB | 40 | Mason Foster (6-1, 229, Jr.) |
| LCB | 28 | Quinton Richardson (6-0, 200, So.) |
| RCB | 20 | Justin Glenn (5-11, 185, Fr.) |
| FS | 34 | Tripper Johnson (6-1, 210, Sr.) |
| SS | 8 | Nate Williams (6-0, 207, Jr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 17 | Erik Folk (5-11, 199, So.) |
| P | 46 | Andrew Lutton (6-2, 197, Jr.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — David Batts**
*S, 6-2, 200*
A late steal from Kansas State, Batts is the type of impact defender the Huskies have been missing for a while.

**2 — Marlion Barnett**
*ATH, 6-2, 202*
He could be used in a variety of roles, including as a tight end/H-back.

**3 — Nathan Fellner**
*S, 6-0, 200*
Fellner was a great steal out of northern California. He's a rangy safety with good coverage skills.

**4 — James Johnson**
*ATH, 6-0, 183*
One of the top players in San Diego, Johnson is a tremendous athlete who could play on either side of the ball.

**5 — Desmond Trufant**
*CB, 6-0, 170*
He has great bloodlines and is speedy with good hips. Trufant can really turn and run.

JAY DROWNS / SN

# WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS 10

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| S.5 | Stanford | 0-58 |

If the Cougars are competitive in their opener, it should indicate major offseason improvement. If they get blown out—Stanford beat them 58-0 last year—then we could be looking at a repeat of '08.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.12 | HAWAII* | 10-24 |
| S.19 | SMU | |
| S.26 | @USC | 0-69 |
| O.3 | @OREGON | 14-63 |
| O.10 | Arizona State | 0-31 |
| O.24 | @CALIFORNIA | 3-66 |
| O.31 | Notre Dame** | |
| N.7 | @ARIZONA | 28-59 |
| N.14 | UCLA | 3-28 |
| N.21 | OREGON STATE | 13-66 |
| N.28 | @WASHINGTON | 16-13 (OT) |

** at Seattle, WA*
*** at San Antonio, TX*

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE D-

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- No proven quarterback.
- The lines are bad and possibly awful.
- Quality depth is severely lacking.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 9 | Kevin Lopina (6-3, 234, Sr.) |
| RB | 31 | Dwight Tardy (5-10, 208, Sr.) |
| LOT | 78 | Steven Ayers (6-4, 315, So.) |
| LOG | 54 | Zack Williams (6-4, 293, Jr.) |
| C | 69 | Kenny Alfred (6-2, 300, Sr.) |
| ROG | 72 | B.J. Guerra (6-3, 311, So.) |
| ROT | 67 | Joe Eppele (6-8, 306, Jr.) |
| TE | 43 | Tony Thompson (6-2, 241, Sr.) |
| WR | 2 | Daniel Blackledge (6-1, 182, Jr.) |
| WR | 29 | Kevin Norrell (5-9, 199, So.) |
| WR | 84 | Jared Karstetter (6-4, 203, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 93 | Kevin Kooyman (6-6, 246, Sr.) |
| LDT | 90 | Toby Turpin (6-4, 284, Jr.) |
| RDT | 95 | Bernard Wolfgramm (6-3, 288, Jr.) |
| RDE | | Brandon Rankin (6-5, 260, Jr.) |
| SLB | 45 | Andy Mattingly (6-4, 255, Sr.) |
| MLB | 43 | Alex Hoffman-Ellis (6-1, 236, So.) |
| WLB | 46 | Louis Bland (5-10, 202, So.) |
| LCB | 32 | Devin Giles (6-0, 173, Sr.) |
| RCB | 9 | Tyrone Justin (5-11, 156, So.) |
| FS | 21 | Chima Nwachukwu (5-11, 201, Jr.) |
| SS | 26 | Xavier Hicks (6-0, 211, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 18 | Nico Grasu (6-0, 221, Jr.) |
| P | 8 | Reid Forrest (6-0, 193, Jr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 2-11
**Pac-10:** 1-8

**Coach:** Paul Wulff
2nd year (2-11)
**Career record:** 2-11
**Offensive coordinator:**
Todd Sturdy (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinators:**
Chris Ball (2nd year)
Jody Sears (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Martin Stadium (37,600)
**Tickets:** 800-GO-COUGS
**Site:** Pullman
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.wsucougars.com

JAY DROWNS / SN

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

The phrase "comically bad" doesn't begin to describe the state of affairs at Washington State over the past year.

It cannot get much worse than a 2-11 season in which the Cougars' only FBS victory came against winless in-state rival Washington.

Or the fact that the team suffered quarterback injuries so severe the Cougars held public tryouts.

It was really bad when last year's team allowed 58 points or more six times, and 63 or more four times.

And to add insult to injury, second-year coach Paul Wulff is being haunted by charges regarding multiple NCAA violations at his previous school (Eastern Washington).

But all this bad news is good for Wulff, because it means expectations in Pullman are subterranean, and the slightest progress will satisfy the faithful.

"Last year was difficult for everyone," Wulff says. "At the same time, it was a learning experience and one we needed to go through as this program moves forward."

If quarterback Marshall Lobbestael, who was suspended from the team following an offseason arrest for possession of alcohol by a minor, isn't ready, then the Cougars might turn to senior Kevin Lopina, who threw no touchdowns and 11 interceptions in eight starts last year. Sophomore J.T. Levenseller, or even freshman Jeff Tuel, could get a look under center.

The options are better at tailback, where Dwight Tardy (481 yards in '08) returns and Cal transfer James Montgomery is now eligible. Montgomery's speed and talent represent significant upgrades in the backfield.

But his success depends on the Cougars improving their offensive line. Center Kenny Alfred is solid, but there are questions elsewhere.

In addition, Washington State must replace its best player in receiver Brandon Gibson, whose 57 receptions accounted for nearly one-third of the Cougars' total in 2008.

A no-huddle attack may keep defenses guessing.

"We believe the no-huddle is best for what we want to do," Wulff says. "After the injuries last year and with our youth, we had to get away from it [for the time]."

Despite problems on offense, the situation could be even worse on the other side of the ball.

The Cougars must replace five starters from one of the worst defenses in Pac-10 history. Last year, the unit allowed 443.4 yards and 43.8 points per game.

Though six starters return, their jobs not safe by any means. And there's a good chance Brandon Rankin, a four-star junior-college transfer, will break into the lineup at one end position. Sophomore linebacker Louis Bland also has potential to steal a starting spot in the fall.

"Everyone realizes it takes two or three years of gradual improvement to get where we need to be," Wulff says about having patience. "But saying that, we have made strides this offseason."

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***LOUIS BLAND, LB***

Bland had three tackles for loss in the Apple Cup against Washington is one of the few bright spots defensively. By the time he's a junior, Bland could be an all-league candidate.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1**
**Arthur Burns**
*RB, 5-10, 206*
He was one of the top running backs in California's "Inland Empire." Burns should provide an immediate impact.

**2**
**Jamal Atofau**
*S, 5-10, 175*
He was a great in-state get for the Cougars. Atofau could play a number of spots in the secondary.

**3**
**Anthony Carpenter**
*CB, 6-0, 171*
He has the size and speed you want from a cornerback prospect.

**4**
**Darren Markle**
*LB, 6-0, 227*
Ignore that he's from Idaho, a state that rarely produces players, and pay attention to his ability to hit ballcarriers.

**5**
**Gino Simone**
*ATH, 6-0, 176*
He was one of the most underrated prospects in the Northwest. Simone doesn't have a natural position, but he is a playmaker.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

# SEC

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

### EAST

1 Florida
2 Georgia
3 South Carolina
4 Tennessee
5 Kentucky
6 Vanderbilt

### WEST

1 Ole Miss
2 LSU
3 Alabama
4 Auburn
5 Arkansas
6 Mississippi State

## RATING THE PLAYERS

**Fastest Receiver**
Trindon Holliday, LSU

**Best Hands**
Julio Jones, WR, Alabama

**Best Passing QB**
Jevan Snead, Ole Miss

**Best Running QB**
Tim Tebow, Florida

**Most Elusive RB**
Michael Smith, Arkansas

**Best Instincts**
Eric Norwood, LB, South Carolina

**Best Athlete**
Jeff Demps, RB, Florida

**Best Under Pressure**
Tim Tebow, QB, Florida

**Top NFL Prospect**
Carlos Dunlap, DE, Florida

**Top Impact Freshman**
Bryce Brown, RB, Tennessee

**Hardest Hitter**
Rennie Curran, LB, Georgia

**Biggest Underachiever**
Geno Atkins, DT, Georgia

**Best Home-Field Advantage**
LSU

**Best Fans**
Alabama

**Best Mascot**
Uga, Georgia

**Best Stadium**
Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, Florida

## Conference's BCS future is so bright, it's going to need a pair of shades

**By Jeremy Fowler,** *Orlando Sentinel* (SEC East previews)
and **Ian Rapoport,** *Birmingham (Ala.) News* (SEC West previews)

While the Southeastern Conference feasts at the royal table of college football, outsiders are getting tired of eating the scraps below.

The other power conferences seem more determined than ever to thwart a potential SEC four-peat of national championships, which could happen if Florida follows through on its preseason No. 1 billing.

USC, Oklahoma and Texas might be proper challengers.

"People act as if the SEC is the end-all," Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio says. "I don't see it as that. Call it what you want."

Opposing coaches have good reason to be testy. In the SEC, teams can lose a game and reach the BCS National Championship with no problem, as long as they win the league title. The steady pipeline gives SEC commissioner Mike Slive no reason to want a college football playoff.

It's difficult to dispute the SEC's place in the college football landscape. Florida (2006 and 2008) and LSU (2003 and 2007), teams that comprise four of the last six national titles, won their last three BCS championship games by an average of 17 points. The SEC went 6-2 last postseason, and the conference has won more BCS bowls (12) than any other league.

The results may be the same this season. National favorite Florida, Georgia, Alabama, LSU and Ole Miss all have the potential to win 10 or more games in 2009.

And how's this for a future? Up to nine of the top 20 teams in the latest 2009 recruiting rankings hail from the SEC.

When the Gators talk this offseason about their next championship effort, they mention the SEC first.

"The SEC is our No. 1 goal," quarterback Tim Tebow says. "That's what we take the most pride in—winning the SEC. If we win that, we think we deserve to be in a big game."

No wonder Florida scheduled a cupcake nonconference schedule for '09. Most SEC coaches agree that surviving conference play suffices.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Jamie Newberg, *Rivals.com*

**1. ALABAMA** The Tide surged with the top recruiting class for the second straight year, dominating in the Southeast.
**2. LSU** The Tigers signed a star-studded group of skill-position players and linemen.
**3. GEORGIA** Another super class, led by two quarterbacks, is headed to Athens. The Dawgs also added two elite wideouts.
**4. TENNESSEE** Lane Kiffin made a statement with his first class, nabbing the nation's top recruit, Bryce Brown.
**5. FLORIDA** The Gators didn't have big numbers, but they did well, especially at offensive line and linebacker.
**6. SOUTH CAROLINA** The Gamecocks were one of several SEC surprises, with impact players like Stephon Gilmore.
**7. ARKANSAS** Bobby Petrino, with his first full season to recruit, did well, as the Hogs signed a few big-time athletes.
**8. OLE MISS** The Rebels closed with the largest class in recent memory in the SEC—37 prospects overall.
**9. AUBURN** If the way Auburn closed on National Signing Day is any indication, the Tigers will be OK in the future.
**10. MISSISSIPPI STATE** Dan Mullen recruited well with a small window, loading up with receivers and a new quarterback.
**11. KENTUCKY** The Wildcats went to a dozen states to put together this class, and they also should get help from a few junior-college transfers.
**12. VANDERBILT** The Commodores signed a small class (17 prospects) led by a few good running backs.

## ALL-SEC

### OFFENSE

QB Tim Tebow, Sr., Florida
RB Charles Scott, Sr., LSU
RB Michael Smith, Sr., Arkansas
OL Ciron Black, Sr., LSU
OL John Jerry, Sr., Ole Miss
OL Maurkice Pouncey, Jr., Florida
OL Josh McNeil, Sr., Tennessee
OL Mike Johnson, Sr., Alabama
TE Aaron Hernandez, Jr., Florida
WR A.J. Green, So., Georgia
WR Julio Jones, So., Alabama

### DEFENSE

DL Greg Hardy, Sr., Ole Miss
DL Ted Laurent, Jr., Ole Miss
DL Terrence Cody, Sr., Alabama
DL Carlos Dunlap, Jr., Florida
LB Brandon Spikes, Sr., Florida
LB Rennie Curran, Jr., Georgia
LB Rolando McClain, Jr., Alabama
DB Joe Haden, Jr., Florida
DB Eric Berry, Jr., Tennessee
DB Ahmad Black, Jr., Florida
DB Trevard Lindley, Sr., Kentucky

### SPECIALISTS

K Joshua Shene, Sr., Ole Miss
P Chas Henry, Jr., Florida

## FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

**1** Tim Tebow will become the best college football quarterback of all time. A second Heisman Trophy would strengthen his cause, but many thought he was robbed in last year's voting.

**2** LSU will be back and better than Alabama. The Tigers will regain that nasty defensive streak that abandoned them in 2008, and top-shelf running back Charles Scott can still control the line of scrimmage behind a bulky offensive line.

**3** Ole Miss will win at least 10 games. For all the heat Houston Nutt has taken over the years, the guy can still coach. He'll have no problem pumping out wins with 15 starters returning and a deep 2009 recruiting class.

**4** Georgia won't miss Matthew Stafford. Good riddance to his 33 career interceptions in a Georgia uniform. New quarterback Joe Cox isn't going to win games by himself, but he won't hurt the Bulldogs like Stafford did.

## ASCENDING

**TENNESSEE** Knock Lane Kiffin's mouth, but you can't knock his recruiting—a top-10 class with two of the country's best running backs headed to Knoxville. There's enough talent on the roster to improve on a 5-7 team that gave up on Phil Fulmer.

## DESCENDING

**SOUTH CAROLINA** Steve Spurrier hasn't won more than eight games in each of his four seasons with the Gamecocks, and still has yet to develop a reliable quarterback or a semblance of an offensive attack. Losing three defensive leaders doesn't help, either.

# In the World of Coach Ron Meyer, Good Enough is NOT Good Enough.

# Only Perfect is Good Enough.

**Like every coach worth his salt, I insist on getting IT RIGHT. That is why I ring up BIG numbers.**

I track the progress of both college and NFL teams, their plusses and minuses. Where there's W's and $'s at stake, I don't want easy answers, just right ones. That's why we grade every team with a point system that tells at a glance if they measure up to their so-called **"power ratings."** Teams that rate higher than their ratings figure to play significantly better than expected and **we scale our bets accordingly.**

Last year we went **67-28-70.5%** overall. Our Games of the Year went **14-5** and my **20-Star Chalkboard Plays went 7-2.** We won high profile matchups like Florida over Oklahoma in the BCS championship and Cards plus over Steelers in the Super Bowl. But we also made money on sleeper teams that kept slipping under the radar like Georgia Tech, Mississippi, Rice, the Ravens and the Titans.

In case the name **Ron Meyer** doesn't ring a bell, I'm a **two-time AFC Coach of the Year** - with the Indianapolis Colts, then with the New England Patriots. I coached **Eric Dickerson** and **Craig James** in the legendary ***Pony Express*** at SMU. I came up under **Tom Landry** at Dallas and won myself a **Super Bowl Ring.** ***I know every important person in football and they know me.***

And they didn't load me up with honors because I look good with a chalkboard – **but because I knew how to make my players do things right.** And I am here to challenge you the way I challenged my players over the years: ***Are YOU doing things right?***

**Are you WINNING?** Are you spotting weak, inaccurate lines and taking all the edges? Do you know when a live dog is ready to pull off the upset? Do you know when a conference leader has been fattening up on creampuffs and is about to come up empty? ***Are you getting the money?***

**If not** – if you think you should be doing better – ***then come with me.***
I have the knowledge tools, the experience and the access to be your coach, personal mentor and selector I will show you the clues and the numbers. I'll tell you things 'cappers never told you because they don't know what coaches know!

**Here's the deal.** Join my team for the full season & receive my **Private Playbook** selections every Saturday and Sunday **PLUS** Mondays and Thursdays. **Note:** ***I will tell you what makes each pick special and why it's worth the units.*** You get this package for the get-acquainted fee of **only $195** and it **includes the entire Pre-Season of some 25-28 bettable games FREE.** Remember I'm an NFL insider: I know the game plan: *Who's out to win, who's only scrimmaging, how long the starters are playing, which game is the dress rehearsal etc.* ***I know when they're pressing the pedal and when they're easing back. That means a month of reliable winners that could bankroll your whole season!***

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SEC EAST PRESEASON RANK

# 1 FLORIDA GATORS

TIM TEBOW ▸ QB

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Charleston Southern | |
| S.12 | Troy | |
| S.19 | Tennessee | 30-6 |
| S.26 | @KENTUCKY | 63-5 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| 0.10 | @LSU | 51-21 |
| 0.17 | Arkansas | 38-7 |
| 0.24 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | |
| 0.31 | Georgia* | 49-10 |
| N.7 | Vanderbilt | 42-14 |
| N.14 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | 56-6 |
| N.21 | Florida International | |
| N.28 | Florida State | 45-15 |

Easily the toughest road game on a favorable schedule, the Tigers have a two-game winning streak over the Gators in Death Valley. This is the biggest obstacle in Florida's championship run.

* *at Jacksonville, FL*

**BOWL PROJECTION** BCS BOWL

» BCS CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ A+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Elite quarterback surrounds numerous playmakers.
- Every ball-hawking defensive starter returns.
- Too much leadership to get complacent.

With the ammunition returning to Gainesville this fall, the Florida Gators could roll out of bed an hour before kickoffs and go 10-2 in the regular season. Quarterback Tim Tebow has mastered the spread offense, the defense returns every starter from last year and most victories could be a yawn away.

"We know we're good," senior linebacker Brandon Spikes says.

Yet "good" would be a colossal disappointment for these Gators.

Good isn't just Pasadena, site of this year's BCS Championship Game. The Gators want more. They want to be remembered and celebrated as the first undefeated team in school history, and the third program since 1980 to repeat as champs.

Anything less will feel like unfinished work and, yes, a failure. Tebow didn't return for his senior season to go to the Outback Bowl. A second Heisman Trophy would pale in comparison to culminating his career with a title-game masterpiece in the Rose Bowl.

Spikes didn't shun the NFL to lose to Georgia in '09. He returned to captain a defense that forced 34 turnovers.

Title hopes hinge on Florida's ability to control expectations. Every practice must run deeper than an excuse to brag about last year's national championship.

"I'm a Gator fan, I wouldn't [be happy] either," says Tebow about anything less than a title in 2009. "That's why we're out here working."

Repeating is easy to talk about but can take months of preparation to make a reality. The title is Florida's to lose when its powerhouse lineup collides with a schedule it can barrel through. Translation: Don't blow it.

LSU is the only SEC West power Florida faces, though the Tigers have won two straight over the Gators at Death Valley. Breaking that streak will be the trickiest factor in Florida's run.

But the Sept. 19 home game against Tennessee could hand Lane Kiffin a 50-point loss after his verbal assault on the Gators this offseason.

Now couple that favorable schedule with a defense that held Oklahoma's prolific offense to 14 points last season and an offense that has averaged more than 42 points per game in each of the last two years. Domination could already be in the books.

Still, assistant coach Dan McCarney can't help but consider the logic that even the best thoroughbred teams failed to repeat as champions in the past.

"College football, basketball, NFL, NBA, pro baseball, pro hockey, you name it—it's tough to repeat," says McCarney,

KIM KLEMENT / US PRESSWIRE

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

| Tim Tebow | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 14 | 172.37 | 298-192-4 | 64.4 | 2746 | 30 | 196.1 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tim Tebow | 14 | 176 | 673 | 3.8 | 12 | 48.1 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aaron Hernandez | 12 | 34 | 381 | 11.2 | 5 | 31.8 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brandon Spikes | 13 | 52 | 41 | 93 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Carlos Dunlap | 14 | 9.5 | 65 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmad Black | 7 | 191 | 27.3 | 2 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 13-1
**SEC:** 7-1
*(beat Oklahoma in the BCS National Championship Game, 24-14)*

**Coach:** Urban Meyer
5th year (44-9)
**Career record:** 83-17
**Offensive coordinator:**
Steve Addazio (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Charlie Strong (7th year)

**Stadium:** Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (88,548)
**Tickets:** 877-428-6742
**Site:** Gainesville
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.gatorzone.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 15 | Tim Tebow (6-3, 245, Sr.) |
| | 12 | John Brantley (6-3, 217, So.) |
| RB | 2 | Jeffery Demps (5-8, 183, So.) |
| | 3 | Chris Rainey (5-9, 175, So.) |
| LOT | 57 | Carl Johnson (6-5, 342, Jr.) |
| | 71 | Matt Patchan (6-6, 260, So.) |
| LOG | 74 | Maurice Hurt (6-2, 305, Jr.) |
| | 66 | James Wilson (6-5, 329, So.) |
| C | 56 | Maurkice Pouncey (6-5, 318, Jr.) |
| | 50 | Sam Robey (6-4, 291, So.) |
| ROG | 55 | Mike Pouncey (6-5, 320, Jr.) |
| | 79 | Corey Hobbs (6-3, 300, Jr.) |
| ROT | 76 | Marcus Gilbert (6-5, 320, Jr.) |
| | 78 | David Young (6-4, 303, Fr.) |
| TE | 81 | Aaron Hernandez (6-2, 250, Jr.) |
| | 45 | T.J. Pridemore (6-1, 241, So.) |
| WR | 16 | Carl Moore (6-3, 225, Sr.) |
| | 7 | Justin Williams (6-0, 205, Jr.) |
| WR | 83 | David Nelson (6-5, 212, Sr.) |
| | 25 | Brandon James (5-7, 185, Sr.) |
| WR | 11 | Riley Cooper (6-3, 215, Sr.) |
| | 6 | Deonte Thompson (6-0, 201, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 8 | Carlos Dunlap (6-6, 290, Jr.) |
| | 94 | Justin Trattou (6-3, 264, Jr.) |
| LDT | 90 | Lawrence Marsh (6-4, 304, Jr.) |
| | 6 | Jaye Howard (6-3, 296, So.) |
| RDT | 92 | Terron Sanders (6-2, 309, Jr.) |
| | 98 | Troy Epps (6-0, 306, Jr.) |
| RDE | 49 | Jermaine Cunningham (6-3, 252, Sr.) |
| | 44 | Duke Lemmens (6-3, 260, Jr.) |
| SLB | 16 | AJ Jones (6-1, 226, Jr.) |
| | 34 | Lerentee McCray (6-2, 227, So.) |
| MLB | 51 | Brandon Spikes (6-3, 258, Sr.) |
| | 26 | Lorenzo Edwards (6-1, 236, Jr.) |
| WLB | 41 | Ryan Stamper (6-2, 235, Sr.) |
| | 32 | Dustin Doe (6-0, 231, Sr.) |
| LCB | 29 | Janoris Jenkins (5-11, 188, So.) |
| | 4 | Wondy Pierre-Louis (6-1, 185, Sr.) |
| RCB | 5 | Joe Haden (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| | 14 | Markihe Anderson (5-9, 182, Sr.) |
| FS | 21 | Major Wright (6-0, 204, Jr.) |
| | 10 | Will Hill (6-1, 202, So.) |
| SS | 35 | Ahmad Black (5-9, 185, Jr.) |
| | 20 | Dorian Munroe (5-11, 205, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 38 | Jonathan Phillips (5-10, 218, Sr.) |
| P | 17 | Chas Henry (6-3, 222, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | FLORIDA | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 611 | 181 |
| Points Per Game | 43.6 | 12.9 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 306 | 234 |
| Rushing | 154 | 97 |
| Passing | 129 | 116 |
| Penalty | 23 | 21 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 3236 | 1476 |
| Yards gained rushing | 3469 | 1817 |
| Yards lost rushing | 233 | 341 |
| Rushing Attempts | 545 | 440 |
| Average Per Rush | 5.9 | 3.4 |
| Average Per Game | 231.1 | 105.4 |
| TDs Rushing | 42 | 9 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2995 | 2518 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 329-211-5 | 456-242-26 |
| Average Per Pass | 9.1 | 5.5 |
| Average Per Catch | 14.2 | 10.4 |
| Average Per Game | 213.9 | 179.9 |
| TDs Passing | 33 | 12 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 6231 | 3994 |
| Total Plays | 874 | 896 |
| Average Per Play | 7.1 | 4.5 |
| Average Per Game | 445.1 | 285.3 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 38-815 | 85-1906 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 42-592 | 14-78 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 26-527 | 5-60 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | FLORIDA | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 21.4 | 22.4 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 14.1 | 5.6 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 20.3 | 12.0 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 19-8 | 16-9 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 102-839 | 87-702 |
| Average Per Game | 59.9 | 50.1 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 45-1952 | 73-2873 |
| Average Per Punt | 43.4 | 39.4 |
| Net punt average | 38.1 | 29.6 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 30:06 | 29:54 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 83/161 | 63/192 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 52% | 33% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 11/16 | 8/24 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 69% | 33% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 34-217 | 16-104 |
| MISC YARDS | 37 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 82 | 21 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 12-13 | 12-17 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 81-82 | 17-20 |
| ATTENDANCE | 633807 | 299220 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/90544 | 4/74805 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 3/79670 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Florida | 167 | 161 | 139 | 144 | 611 |
| Opponent | 20 | 38 | 64 | 59 | 181 |

who coaches the defensive line. "There's something that's missing through the decades where teams have such trouble repeating as world champions. Will they keep the hunger? Will they keep the intensity? Will our staff be as unified and hungry and as tough and as demanding? Time will tell. We think we will. Working for Urban Meyer, that's what we expect."

No factor could hinder Florida's championship run more than an unsuccessful attempt to replace Percy Harvin, arguably the most dynamic playmaker in Gators history.

Harvin's 1,304 all-purpose yards in 2008 almost eclipsed the 1,323 total from the Gators' top five returning receivers on this spring's roster—Aaron Hernandez, Deonte Thompson, Riley Cooper, Carl Moore and David Nelson.

Hernandez is firmly stitched in Florida's offensive plan as the SEC's best tight end. After that, it gets interesting. The returning wide receivers showed promise in spots last year but never exploded behind Harvin. Speedy running backs Jeffery Demps and Chris Rainey are the favorites to fill the wide receiver/running back hybrid, at least until incoming freshman Andre Debose steps on the field.

"It's going to take a bunch of people stepping up to replace someone like [Harvin]," Demps says. "I'm just one of those guys."

Harvin is one of four offensive starters Florida must replace in 2009, including receiver Louis Murphy and offensive tackles Jason Watkins and Phil Trautwein, who started a combined 59 games for Florida. Their values cannot be undersold, as Florida has no idea whether the tackle spots will be consistent in 2009. And a running quarterback needs good tackles.

Redshirt junior Marcus Gilbert emerged in spring practices as a starting tackle, and the Gators might move Carl Johnson, last year's starting guard, to the other tackle spot. The line must adjust to the Gators' recent tinkering of a no-huddle, I-formation package to add unpredictability to Meyer's spread offense.

Tebow wouldn't mind proving to scouts that he can run NFL-style plays with ease, but expect this plan to be shredded halfway through the season in favor of the old, reliable Tebow.

Any other criticisms would be a stretch. Even the backups could be stars elsewhere. The only enemies looming larger than LSU or Georgia might be themselves.

## RECRUITING REPORT

The national champions didn't have a large class (16 commitments) but still put together an impressive group. Florida plugged the offensive line and linebacking corps with **Xavier Nixon, Jelani Jenkins** and **Jon Bostic**. Don't be surprised if Jenkins and Bostic both contribute as true freshmen. And the Gators snagged **Gary Brown**, one of the most athletic defensive tackles in the nation.

Wide receiver **Andre Debose** seems to be a perfect fit to replace Percy Harvin and will be counted on this fall. Two other players to keep an eye on offensively are running back **Mike Gillislee** and tight end **Desmond Parks**. Both players could be sleepers.

The Gators lost two big-time commitments—both to Tennessee—on National Signing Day in wide receiver Nu'Keese Richardson and cornerback Marsalis Teague. Florida also lost cornerback Greg Reid to Florida State.
*—Jamie Newberg, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *CARLOS DUNLAP, DE*

Dunlap registered 9.5 sacks and a Defensive MVP award in the BCS National Championship Game last year—as a backup. Gators coaches think Dunlap can achieve more, assuming he puts in the work.

# 2 GEORGIA BULLDOGS

A.J. GREEN ▸ WR

TOP 25 PICK

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | |
| S.12 | South Carolina | 14-7 |
| S.19 | @ARKANSAS | |
| S.26 | Arizona State | 27-10 |
| 0.3 | LSU | 52-38 |
| 0.10 | @TENNESSEE | 26-14 |
| 0.17 | @VANDERBILT | 24-14 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| 0.31 | @FLORIDA* | 10-49 |
| N.7 | Tennessee Tech | |
| N.14 | Auburn | 17-13 |
| N.21 | Kentucky | 42-38 |
| N.28 | @GEORGIA TECH | 42-45 |

Who are we kidding? This is always the game to watch for Georgia, which might have had a BCS national title by now if it wasn't for Florida. The Bulldogs won't lack motivation after last year's pounding by the Gators.

** at Jacksonville, FL*

**BOWL PROJECTION** MIDDLE TIER BOWL

» CHICK-FIL-A BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ B+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- Stacked defensive and offensive lines.
- A.J. Green might be SEC's best receiver.
- Always better when not hyped in preseason.

Last season, the Georgia Bulldogs were defeated the moment they were branded with that preseason No. 1 label.

Hype isn't Georgia's style. Coach Mark Richt would prefer any sense of entitlement to leave his locker room, which is why this year's Bulldogs could be a more natural fit for the players and coaches.

Instead of trying to control the tide of expectations that whisked them away last season, the Bulldogs can build off what they have done best under Richt the last eight years—use perennial top-10 recruiting classes, physical defensive and offensive lines and a smart quarterback to manufacture wins.

They don't need quarterback Matthew Stafford and running back Knowshon Moreno to follow that blueprint.

"I think the media, whether we liked it or not, wanted to portray Stafford and Moreno as the team," says Richt, whose Bulldogs went 10-3 last year. "You couldn't talk about Georgia without talking about [Stafford] or Moreno. They are great players that garnered attention with their style of play, but now that those guys are gone, it's much more of a team situation here. They don't have the names to talk about."

Instead of sulking in the sorrows of losing those two first-round NFL draft picks, Richt is channeling his springy days from 2001. Quarterback Joe Cox, an efficient yet unspectacular senior who will replace Stafford, says Richt made it clear in spring practice that he was getting more involved with the players "as if it was his first year on the job."

Changes are obvious throughout the Georgia football complex and practice fields, Cox says. He's speaking frequently and teaching passionately throughout each practice.

And the leash has officially been tightened, down to every nuance. Leaving trash in the football facility is grounds for extra laps. In years past, seniors got at least one break during the offseason mat-drill program, a gruesome workout using wrestling mats and other obstacles. This year, no one left the mat for a second. Cox thinks Richt was sending a subtle signal to his seniors about leadership through those drills.

"We've had problems with guys getting in trouble and certain discipline issues that he's now put to a complete rest," says Cox, referring to 10 player arrests from January to October of 2008. "It's been the best offseason since I've been here. He's taking it upon himself to coach us a lot harder. There's something he's trying to spread through our team."

As if a coach with six double-digit-win seasons in seven years and two SEC titles needs to feel desperate. But for Richt, sometimes it's about accentuating the basics.

DALE ZANINE / US PRESSWIRE

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

| Joe Cox | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3 | 201.89 | 15-11-0 | 73.3 | 151 | 2 | 50.3 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Caleb King | 11 | 61 | 247 | 4.0 | 1 | 22.5 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A.J. Green | 13 | 56 | 963 | 17.2 | 8 | 74.1 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rennie Curran | 13 | 63 | 52 | 115 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rennie Curran | 13 | 3 | 27 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Reshad Jones | 5 | 32 | 6.4 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 10-3
**SEC:** 6-2
*(beat Michigan State in the Capital One Bowl, 24-12)*

**Coach:** Mark Richt
9th year (82-22)
**Career record:** 82-22
**Offensive coordinator:**
Mike Bobo (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Willie Martinez (5th year)

**Stadium:** Sanford Stadium (92,746)
**Tickets:** 877-542-1231
**Site:** Athens
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.georgiadogs.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 14 | Joe Cox (6-1, 210, Sr.) |
| | 6 | Logan Gray (6-2, 186, So.) |
| FB | 49 | Shaun Chapas (6-2, 244, Jr.) |
| | 48 | Fred Munzenmaier (6-2, 232, Jr.) |
| RB | 30 | Carlton Thomas (5-7, 170, r-Fr.) |
| | 4 | Caleb King (5-11, 212, So.) |
| LOT | 77 | Trinton Sturdivant (6-5, 293, Jr.) |
| | 60 | Clint Boling (6-5, 286, Jr.) |
| LOG | 71 | Cordy Glenn (6-5, 331, So.) |
| | 70 | A.J. Harmon (6-5, 327, Fr.) |
| C | 61 | Ben Jones (6-3, 304, So.) |
| | 64 | Dallas Lee (6-4, 305, Fr.) |
| ROG | 54 | Tanner Strickland (6-5, 327, So.) |
| | 76 | Ben Harden (6-3, 313, So.) |
| ROT | 79 | Justin Anderson (6-5, 338, So.) |
| | 67 | Jonathan Owens (6-4, 312, Fr.) |
| TE | 81 | Aron White (6-4, 225, So.) |
| | 84 | Bryce Ros (6-4, 242, Fr.) |
| WR | 16 | Kris Durham (6-5, 208, Sr.) |
| | 12 | Tavarres King (6-1, 176, Fr.) |
| WR | 8 | A.J. Green (6-4, 200, So.) |
| | 82 | Michael Moore (6-2, 200, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 58 | Demarcus Dobbs (6-2, 282, Jr.) |
| | 75 | Kiante Tripp (6-6, 270, Jr.) |
| LDT | 95 | Jeff Owens (6-3, 306, Sr.) |
| | 91 | Kade Weston (6-5, 325, Sr.) |
| RDT | 56 | Geno Atkins (6-1, 287, Sr.) |
| | 93 | Brandon Wheeling (6-3, 277, Sr.) |
| RDE | 42 | Justin Houston (6-3, 264, So.) |
| | 53 | Jeremy Longo (6-3, 241, Fr.) |
| SLB | 50 | Darryl Gamble (6-2, 247, Sr.) |
| | 39 | Nick Williams (6-2, 207, Fr.) |
| MLB | 51 | Akeem Dent (6-2, 231, Jr.) |
| | 44 | Marcus Washington (6-0, 250, Sr.) |
| WLB | 35 | Rennie Curran (5-11, 228, Jr.) |
| | 38 | Marcus Dowtin (6-2, 226, Fr.) |
| LCB | 23 | Prince Miller (5-8, 196, Sr.) |
| | 25 | Vance Cuff (5-11, 172, Jr.) |
| RCB | 2 | Brandon Boykin (5-10, 176, So.) |
| | 19 | Sanders Commings (6-2, 210, Fr.) |
| FS | 3 | Bryan Evans (5-11, 194, Sr.) |
| | 20 | John Knox (6-2, 205, So.) |
| SS | 9 | Reshad Jones (6-2, 212, Jr.) |
| | 31 | Quintin Banks (6-2, 210, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 57 | Blair Walsh (5-10, 183, So.) |
| P | 13 | Drew Butler (6-2, 202, So.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | GEORGIA | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 409 | 319 |
| Points Per Game | 31.5 | 24.5 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 273 | 227 |
| Rushing | 95 | 83 |
| Passing | 163 | 109 |
| Penalty | 15 | 35 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1928 | 1590 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2200 | 1910 |
| Yards lost rushing | 272 | 320 |
| Rushing Attempts | 426 | 439 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.5 | 3.6 |
| Average Per Game | 148.3 | 122.3 |
| TDs Rushing | 21 | 24 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 3610 | 2466 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 400-246-10 | 377-210-11 |
| Average Per Pass | 9.0 | 6.5 |
| Average Per Catch | 14.7 | 11.7 |
| Average Per Game | 277.7 | 189.7 |
| TDs Passing | 27 | 17 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5538 | 4056 |
| Total Plays | 826 | 816 |
| Average Per Play | 6.7 | 5.0 |
| Average Per Game | 426.0 | 312.0 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 51-1076 | 65-1408 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 24-422 | 17-121 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 11-203 | 10-286 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | GEORGIA | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 21.1 | 21.7 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 17.6 | 7.1 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 18.5 | 28.6 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 19-9 | 16-5 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 112-938 | 66-558 |
| Average Per Game | 72.2 | 42.9 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 51-2175 | 68-2790 |
| Average Per Punt | 42.6 | 41.0 |
| Net punt average | 37.5 | 33.6 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 30:57 | 29:03 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 66/157 | 62/175 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 42% | 35% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 6/13 | 9/22 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 46% | 41% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 24-186 | 17-126 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 19 |
| TDS SCORED | 52 | 42 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 15-23 | 9-13 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 50-50 | 36-37 |
| ATTENDANCE | 556476 | 407640 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/92746 | 5/81528 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 2/72165 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Georgia | 72 | 127 | 94 | 116 | 409 |
| Opponent | 46 | 85 | 102 | 86 | 319 |

"The only chance we have is to play as a team," Richt says.

Talent hasn't departed Athens, even if questions abound with the departure of a combined nine starters on both sides of the ball.

Many of the losses can be compensated by a gain. Lose Stafford, return senior defensive tackle Jeff Owens from a torn ACL last year. Lose Moreno, but return redshirt sophomore offensive tackle Trinton Sturdivant, who also missed all of 2008 with torn knee ligaments.

Every starting offensive lineman returns in an effort to redeem last year's matador-style blocking performance, while Owens will team with Geno Atkins to form one of the most potent interior defensive lines in the country.

Georgia will replace Stafford's big arm with Cox's acumen. His transition will be aided by sophomore receiver A.J. Green, one of the best in the country.

Sophomore running back Caleb King has yet to show he's the player to replace Moreno, who amassed 2,734 career yards and 30 touchdowns in two years with the Bulldogs. Better suited for the job might be sophomore Richard Samuel or redshirt freshman Carlton Thomas.

Cornerback Asher Allen's departure to the NFL opens a spot for sophomore Brandon Boykin, who might pluck some interceptions with his 40-inch vertical leap.

Georgia always has the guns. A sense of urgency must match the talent in order to stave off defending national champion Florida, which clobbered the Bulldogs 49-10 last year.

By the way, that score is plastered all over the Georgia football complex, a loss that Cox calls "embarrassing" and something that makes you "sick to your stomach."

"Once we hit adversity, we didn't know how to respond," Cox says about last year. "We thought it just shouldn't have happened. I definitely think there's a different attitude this year as far as how we view ourselves and what we can do as a team instead of worrying about what everybody else's view of us is."

Still, Cox says the Bulldogs have a response to the critics who think Georgia can't handle winning a conference title without Stafford or Moreno, and it'll come on the field.

"We've taken a lot of those comments to heart," Cox says.

## RECRUITING REPORT

Georgia always recruits well, and the Bulldogs did so again this year. It starts with the quarterbacks—**Aaron Murray** and **Zach Mettenberger.** Both players have great futures in Athens. Murray is one of the nation's best pure passers, while Mettenberger has good size and a big-time arm.

The Bulldogs landed a trio of elite wide receivers in **Marlon Brown, Orson Charles** and **Rantavious Wooten.** They won a major recruiting battle against Tennessee to steal Brown, who is from Memphis.

As always, Georgia did well on both lines of scrimmage with such prospects as **Austin Long, Chris Burnette, Dallas Lee, Abry Jones** and **Montez Robinson.** Defensively, Georgia is led by speedy **Branden Smith,** who was one of the top cover corners in the nation. **Shawn Williams** and **Jordan Love** are two other talented defensive backs headed to Georgia.

*—Jamie Newberg, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *CARLTON THOMAS, RB*

The slippery redshirt freshman impressed this spring while Caleb King couldn't secure the starting tailback job and Richard Samuel missed time with a wrist injury. As long as he can take the pounding of SEC defenses, Thomas could be Georgia's next explosive situational guy.

# 3 SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

The thought of Steve Spurrier as a middle-of-the-road Southeastern Conference coach still takes a couple of seconds to ingest.

Does that visor still come in a 1996 model?

The former sideline beast at Florida has gone from being "Head Ball Coach" to trying to avoid a looming six-loss season—again.

As if the 28-22 record the last four seasons wasn't enough, Spurrier must replace the top three playmakers on each side of the ball.

Football is beyond preserving a legacy for Spurrier, even though every 30-point loss might smudge that legacy a little each time.

Those seven SEC titles and a national championship during his 12 years at Florida shouldn't define his coaching career, he says. The way Spurrier sees it, everything hinges on whether he can vault himself out of Gamecock mediocrity.

"If we win some close games here and win a championship, I'll have a great legacy," Spurrier says. "How about that?"

Spurrier's offenses at South Carolina have regressed as much as his golf game has improved—and he's pretty good.

The Gamecocks finished last in the conference in rushing offense and eighth in scoring last year with 20.8 points per game, a struggle punctuated by a 31-10 loss to Iowa in the Outback Bowl.

The defense has never had problems making plays, but the losses of cornerback Captain Munnerlyn, safety Emanuel Cook and linebacker Jasper Brinkley hurt. All-SEC linebacker Eric Norwood's workload just doubled for 2009.

After encouraging offensive progress during April, Spurrier left the spring game disappointed with the performance. Spurrier is back to calling the plays after juggling last year's duties with his son, Steve Spurrier Jr., who's now the receivers coach.

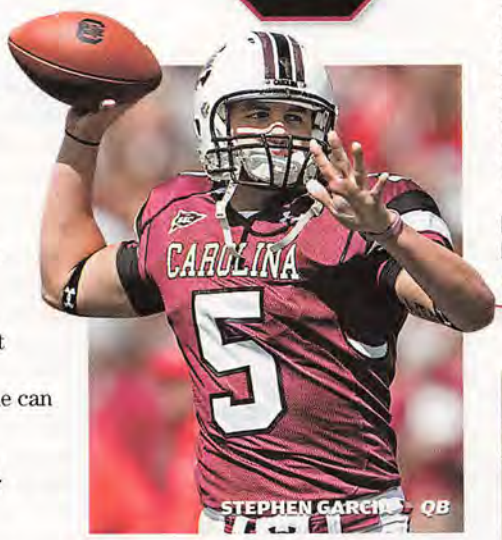
"Hopefully we made some progress with our team," says Spurrier, who hasn't won more than eight games in a season at South Carolina. "We'll find out when we open the season."

The Gamecocks are being delicate with redshirt sophomore Stephen Garcia, who just endured his first full spring practice after a tumultuous early career. Garcia was Spurrier's first big-time quarterback recruit at the school, but rampant legal trouble prompted the ball coach to suspend Garcia three times in his short collegiate career.

Now the Gamecocks' program is in his hands. That notion might be scary to some fans, but maybe he can get the job done. This offseason, South Carolina hired quarterbacks coach G.A. Mangus to mold Garcia into an SEC-caliber quarterback.

"He's still got a ways to go," says Spurrier of Garcia.

"This is the first spring that he went through all 15 practices. Hopefully he will be much much more prepared this season. Stephen has a lot of ability; he has to learn how to use it and make good decisions back there."



STEPHEN GARCIA - QB

## THE NEXT BIG THING

**MOE BROWN, WR**

The senior has shown his deep-threat ability in practice, but his longest reception last season was 34 yards. With Kenny McKinley graduated, expect Brown to fill an expanded role.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 7-6
**SEC:** 4-4
*(lost to Iowa in the Outback Bowl, 31-10)*

**Coach:** Steve Spurrier
5th year (28-22)
**Career record:** 170-62-2
**Offensive coordinator:**
Steve Spurrier (5th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Lorenzo Ward (1st year)

**Stadium:** Williams-Brice Stadium (80,250)
**Tickets:** 800-472-3267
**Site:** Columbia
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.uscsports.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | @NORTH CAROLINA STATE | 34-0 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.12 @GEORGIA** 7-14

The Gamecocks need to make an SEC splash early, and they almost had the Bulldogs in last year's 14-7 loss. Georgia could be vulnerable while adjusting to new quarterback Joe Cox.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.19 | Florida Atlantic | |
| S.24 | Ole Miss | 31-24 |
| O.3 | South Carolina State | |
| O.10 | Kentucky | 24-17 |
| O.17 | @ALABAMA | |
| O.24 | Vanderbilt | 17-24 |
| O.31 | @TENNESSEE | 27-6 |
| N.7 | @ARKANSAS | 34-21 |
| N.14 | Florida | 6-56 |
| N.28 | Clemson | 14-31 |

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» MUSIC CITY BOWL
MIDDLE TIER BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» Offense has lost confidence over the years.
» Top three players gone from each side of the ball.
» Wild-card quarterback who could turn program around.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 5 | Stephen Garcia (6-2, 219, r-So.) |
| FB | 47 | Patrick DiMarco (6-0, 243, Jr.) |
| RB | 28 | Eric Baker (5-11, 194, So.) |
| LOT | 76 | Jarriel King (6-5, 312, Jr.) |
| LOG | 57 | Lemuel Jeanpierre (6-4, 294, Sr.) |
| C | 70 | Garrett Anderson (6-4, 307, Sr.) |
| ROG | 60 | Terrence Campbell (6-3, 290, Jr.) |
| ROT | 72 | Quintin Richardson (6-3, 283, So.) |
| TE | 88 | Weslye Saunders (6-5, 280, Jr.) |
| WR | 4 | Jason Barnes (6-4, 199, So.) |
| WR | 9 | Moe Brown (6-0, 183, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 96 | Clifton Geathers (6-8, 281, Jr.) |
| LDT | 95 | Nathan Pepper (6-1, 300, Sr.) |
| RDT | 91 | Ladi Ajiboye (6-1, 285, Jr.) |
| RDE | 83 | Cliff Matthews (6-4, 249, Jr.) |
| SLB | 4 | Alonzo Winfield (6-0, 222, So.) |
| MLB | 45 | Rodney Paulk (6-0, 216, Jr.) |
| WLB | 40 | Eric Norwood (6-1, 252, Sr.) |
| LCB | 7 | Addison Williams (5-8, 177, Jr.) |
| RCB | 3 | Akeem Auguste (5-10, 180, So.) |
| FS | 17 | Chris Culliver (6-0, 190, Jr.) |
| SS | 24 | Darian Stewart (5-11, 216, Sr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 34 | Spencer Lanning (5-11, 188, Jr.) |
| P | 34 | Spencer Lanning (5-11, 188, Jr.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 Stephon Gilmore**
*ATH, 6-1, 180*
Gilmore is a two-way star and a great athlete. He is expected to make a big impact at cornerback.

**2 Jarvis Giles**
*RB, 5-11, 175*
Giles is an explosive running back, which is what Steve Spurrier's offense needs in Columbia.

**3 DeVonte Holloman**
*LB, 6-2, 214*
Holloman is a versatile prospect who will likely begin at safety and grow into a linebacker.

**4 Alshon Jeffery**
*WR, 6-3, 214*
The Gamecocks beat out USC and Tennessee for this physical wide-receiver prospect.

**5 Damario Jeffery**
*ATH, 6-3, 215*
Jeffery is another athlete who could play a variety of positions on either side of the ball.

BOB LEVERONE

# TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS 4

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Western Kentucky | |
| S.12 | UCLA | 24-27 (OT) |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.19** | **@FLORIDA** | **6-30** |
| After Lane Kiffin's false accusation of Florida's recruiting violations and his prediction that Tennessee will beat the Gators, Florida wants to win by 50. The Vols might need to worry about saving face. | | |
| S.26 | Ohio | |
| 0.3 | Auburn | 12-14 |
| 0.10 | Georgia | 14-26 |
| 0.24 | @ALABAMA | 9-29 |
| 0.31 | South Carolina | 6-27 |
| N.7 | Memphis | |
| N.14 | @OLE MISS | |
| N.21 | Vanderbilt | 20-10 |
| N.28 | @KENTUCKY | 28-10 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** MIDDLE TIER BOWL
» LIBERTY BOWL

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7
**SEC:** 3-5

**Coach:** Lane Kiffin, 1st year
**Offensive coordinator:** Jim Chaney (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:** Monte Kiffin (1st year)

**Stadium:** Neyland Stadium (102,038)
**Tickets:** 800-332-VOLS
**Site:** Knoxville
**Official athletic Web site:** www.utsports.com

Lane Kiffin's assault on the SEC began with a jab against Florida at his first press conference, where he said he'll be "singing Rocky Top all night long" after beating the Gators. Then he got trigger-happy.

Here's a recap of how the first-year coach made enemies in his first four months on the job:

1. Tried to hire assistants from SEC schools, succeeding in nabbing Alabama's Lance Thompson, South Carolina's David Reaves and Mississippi State's Frank Wilson.

2. Accused Florida coach Urban Meyer of an NCAA recruiting violation regarding the Gators' oral commitment with eventual Tennessee signee Nu'Keese Richardson. Meyer was cleared and Kiffin had to apologize.

3. Broke two NCAA secondary violations for his own questionable recruiting practices.

4. Insulted the University of South Carolina after reportedly telling a Columbia-bound recruit that he will be "pumping gas for the rest of his life like all the other players from that state who had gone to South Carolina."

Many say Kiffin's approach is too sophomoric to belong in the high-profile college ranks. To Kiffin, he's doing what's necessary.

After Tennessee endured its worst season in more than 30 years in 2008, Kiffin has the arduous task of changing the culture as Phil Fulmer's replacement. Change doesn't bother Kiffin, who has injected life in Knoxville.

"There were three people we felt we had to reach," Kiffin says. "The fan base, the state of Tennessee, getting them excited, and we feel that we've done that. Second was the current players; we knew the staff had confidence in them and would drive them to work extremely hard. Third were the recruits. We wanted to make sure recruits are seeing the team and being familiar with Tennessee."

Recruits have noticed. Kiffin and recruiting closer Ed Orgeron knocked out a top-10 class in 2009, highlighted by running backs Bryce Brown and David Oku and playmakers Richardson and Marsalis Teague. All four might contribute this fall, especially with tailback Arian Foster gone.

With 14 starters returning from a bad team, Tennessee has to decide if that's a good thing. But returning All-SEC pick Eric Berry is great. He's the best safety in the conference.

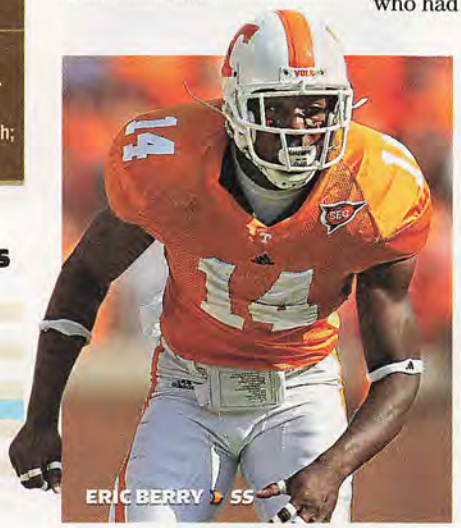
Seven starters return from an offense that looked sickly last year with quarterback Jonathan Crompton running things.

Starting fresh might be the best option for Tennessee's long-term success. Maybe Crompton will patch together one efficient season. Kiffin says he was pleased with Crompton's spring after sophomores Nick Stephens and B.J. Coleman didn't apply enough pressure on the job.

"He's really been very competitive in his approach to the position," Kiffin says. "He's done a great job running our offense."

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Aggressive, ball-hawking defense.
- Killer recruiting class coming in.
- Excitement surrounding new coach; vast changes.


ERIC BERRY » SS

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 8 | Jonathan Crompton (6-4, 228, Sr.) |
| FB | 45 | Kevin Cooper (6-0, 247, Jr.) |
| RB | 2 | Montario Hardesty (6-0, 212, Sr.) |
| LOT | 79 | Chris Scott (6-5, 346, Sr.) |
| LOG | 51 | Vladimir Richard (6-4, 300, Sr.) |
| C | 50 | Josh McNeil (6-4, 280, Sr.) |
| ROG | 65 | Jacques McClendon (6-3, 324, Sr.) |
| ROT | 74 | Jarrod Shaw (6-4, 332, Jr.) |
| TE | 80 | Jeff Cottam (6-8, 260, Sr.) |
| WR | 87 | Quintin Hancock (6-3, 207, Sr.) |
| WR | 4 | Gerald Jones (6-0, 199, Jr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 99 | Ben Martin (6-3, 239, Jr.) |
| LDT | 94 | Wes Brown (6-4, 257, Sr.) |
| RDT | 55 | Dan Williams (6-3, 327, Sr.) |
| RDE | 84 | Chris Walker (6-3, 232, Jr.) |
| SLB | 42 | LaMarcus Thompson (6-1, 221, Jr.) |
| MLB | 56 | Nick Reveiz (5-11, 220, Jr.) |
| WLB | 5 | Rico McCoy (6-1, 220, Sr.) |
| LCB | 13 | Brent Vinson (6-0, 201, Jr.) |
| RCB | 25 | Art Evans (6-1, 173, So.) |
| FS | 29 | Stephaun Raines (5-10, 179, So.) |
| SS | 14 | Eric Berry (5-11, 203, Jr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 26 | Daniel Lincoln (6-0, 203, Jr.) |
| P | 96 | Chad Cunningham (6-3, 198, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Bryce Brown**
*RB, 6-0, 215*
Brown was the nation's top prospect. He can do it all at running back, and his impact should be felt in Knoxville immediately.

**2 — Janzen Jackson**
*CB, 6-0, 174*
The Vols landed Jackson the day after National Signing Day, beating LSU for this five-star prospect. He can play corner or safety.

**3 — Nu'Keese Richardson**
*WR, 5-8, 151*
Tennessee needs speed and quickness on the perimeter, and that's what Richardson brings to the table.

**4 — Montori Hughes**
*DT, 6-5, 280*
Hughes signed with Tennessee last year but failed to qualify academically. He's back in Knoxville and was the talk of spring ball.

**5 — Darren Myles**
*S, 6-0, 175*
Myles, like Janzen Jackson, will have a chance to make a quick impact on Tennessee's defense at free safety.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***BRYCE BROWN, RB***

The Vols scooped up the nation's best tailback recruit after a confusing process that included a "mentor" calling the shots. He'll make an immediate impact with his speed and size.

JOE ROBBINS

# 5 KENTUCKY WILDCATS

The Kentucky Wildcats have implemented that trendy package on offense that's sweeping the nation. "We're going to call it the Wildcat package," coach Rich Brooks says. Original.

At least Kentucky is trying to recapture the offensive magic of the Andre Woodson era rather than last season's attempt to run away from it.

Somehow Kentucky keeps crawling its way into bowl games, but in years past a good passing attack was what got the Wildcats there. Last year's squad wasn't great at anything, save timely playmaking on defense and blocking on offense.

And to think this team was ranked No. 7 in the nation two years ago. Yes, we're talking about Kentucky football.

Now there's nowhere for the Wildcats' offense to go but up, and the defense must play superb for the program to reach bowl contention in 2009.

"Offensively, there isn't any question in my mind we'll be better than last year," Brooks says. "We have a chance to do something that hasn't been done in a long time."

Win maybe three SEC games and handle its easy nonconference schedule and Kentucky will vault into its fourth straight bowl game. But this year's lineup suggests merit won't be enough.

Kentucky caught a break when defensive end Jeremy Jarmon and cornerback Trevard Lindley spurned the NFL to return for their senior years. Couple that duo with linebacker Micah Johnson and Kentucky has some good defensive leaders.

The Wildcats won't cause SEC havoc by leaning on one particular offensive unit. Collectively, this offense can be effective, but true difference-makers are scarce. Quarterback Mike Hartline can be decent but not heroic, while the wide receivers are still unproven and the running backs have injury issues. Most promising might be the three returning offensive linemen who gave up a league-low 13 sacks last year.

The key will be limiting mistakes, something Kentucky does well under Brooks. That's how a team survives in the SEC without top-shelf recruiting classes. Now that Hartline went through spring ball as the starter, his maturation must take off.

Kentucky wants to define a role for Randall Cobb after he platooned at quarterback last year. Cobb might run the Wildcat package, along with some wide-receiver sets. And don't forget about incoming freshman QBs Morgan Newton and Ryan Mossakowski, either of whom could snag a job in preseason workouts. Both players will get a "hard look," Brooks says.

Alfonso Smith might emerge as an every-down running back while Derrick Locke recovers from a knee injury. Neither player has rewritten Kentucky's record books, but they might coalesce nicely as a tandem.

If all else fails, Kentucky should consider getting Lindley the ball on some offensive packages. He's the team's best player and possibly the conference's best corner, possessing enough talent to surprise Brooks by his return after being a viable NFL option.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***ALFONSO SMITH, RB***

After playing in the shadows of Rafael Little and Tony Dixon, the explosive Smith should get significant carries this year. But he's never been asked to produce every week until now.

TREVARD LINDLEY » CB

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 7-6
**SEC:** 2-6
*(beat East Carolina in the Liberty Bowl, 25-19)*

**Coach:** Rich Brooks
7th year (32-41)
**Career record:** 123-150-4
**Offensive coordinator:**
Joker Phillips (5th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Steve Brown (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Commonwealth Stadium (67,606)
**Tickets:** 800-928-2287
**Site:** Lexington
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.ukathletics.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @MIAMI (OH)* | |
| S.19 | Louisville | 27-2 |
| S.26 | Florida | 5-63 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**0.3 Alabama** **14-17**

A solid performance against this SEC heavyweight could provide confidence for the next two road games at South Carolina and Auburn.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0.10 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | 17-24 |
| 0.17 | @AUBURN | |
| 0.24 | Louisiana-Monroe | |
| 0.31 | Mississippi State | 14-13 |
| N.7 | Eastern Kentucky | |
| N.14 | @VANDERBILT | 24-31 |
| N.21 | @GEORGIA | 38-42 |
| N.28 | Tennessee | 10-28 |

** at Cincinnati, OH*

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL
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## PROFESSOR'S GRADE C

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Needs to regain offensive prowess.
- Defensive leadership abounds.
- Hungry for fourth straight bowl game.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 5 | Mike Hartline (6-6, 204, Jr.) |
| FB | 38 | John Conner (5-11, 240, Sr.) |
| RB | 29 | Alfonso Smith (6-1, 204, Sr.) |
| LOT | 72 | Zipp Duncan (6-5, 285, Sr.) |
| LOG | 70 | Stuart Hines (6-4, 295, So.) |
| C | 61 | Jorge Gonzalez (6-3, 305, Sr.) |
| ROG | 63 | Jake Lanefski (6-4, 286, So.) |
| ROT | 75 | Brad Durham (6-4, 310, Jr.) |
| TE | 80 | TC Drake (6-6, 242, Sr.) |
| WR | 17 | EJ Adams (6-0, 197, Sr.) |
| WR | 81 | Kyrus Lanxter (6-2, 195, Jr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 99 | Jeremy Jarmon (6-3, 279, Sr.) |
| LDT | 91 | Corey Peters (6-3, 295, Sr.) |
| RDT | 53 | Ricky Lumpkin (6-4, 294, Jr.) |
| RDE | 66 | Chandler Burden (6-4, 294, So.) |
| SLB | 57 | Jacob Dufrene (6-1, 220, Jr.) |
| MLB | 4 | Micah Johnson (6-2, 256, Sr.) |
| WLB | 50 | Sam Maxwell (6-3, 244, Sr.) |
| LCB | 32 | Trevard Lindley (6-0, 175, Sr.) |
| RCB | 24 | Randall Burden (6-0, 170, So.) |
| FS | 33 | Calvin Harrison (6-1, 205, Sr.) |
| SS | 10 | Matt Lentz (6-3, 209, So.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 36 | Lones Seiber (5-9, 195, Sr.) |
| P | 9 | Ryan Tydlacka (6-1, 202, So.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 Mark Crawford**
*DT, 6-1, 290*
Crawford came to Lexington via junior college, and he has already made an impact during spring drills.

**2 Donald Russell**
*RB, 5-11, 205*
Russell, who has good speed, will give the Wildcats a versatile threat in the backfield.

**3 Chris Matthews**
*WR, 6-5, 210*
This junior-college product caught 80 balls for more than 1,200 yards at Los Angeles Harbor College last year.

**4 DeQuin Evans**
*DE, 6-2, 260*
Evans is another junior-college transfer who will have a chance to impact the Kentucky defense immedately.

**5 Morgan Newton**
*QB, 6-4, 220*
Newton is a big quarterback prospect with solid athletic ability and a good arm.

JOE ROBBINS

# VANDERBILT COMMODORES 6

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Western Carolina | |
| S.12 | @LSU | |
| S.19 | Mississippi State | 14-17 |
| S.26 | @RICE | 38-21 |
| O.3 | Ole Miss | 23-17 |
| O.10 | @ARMY | |
| O.17 | Georgia | 14-24 |
| O.24 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | 24-17 |
| O.31 | Georgia Tech | |
| N.7 | @FLORIDA | 14-42 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| N.14 | Kentucky | 31-24 |
| N.21 | @TENNESSEE | 10-20 |

The Commodores are notorious for fizzling late in the season. If they want a second straight bowl game, they'll need an SEC win in the second half of the year. Kentucky's a winnable game, especially at home.

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

- One of conference's most disciplined teams.
- Offense needs more playmakers.
- Secondary creates havoc.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 10 | Larry Smith (6-2, 215, So.) |
| RB | 31 | Jared Hawkins (5-10, 195, Sr.) |
| LOT | 68 | Reilly Lauer (6-6, 275, Jr.) |
| LOG | 72 | Kyle Fischer (6-6, 300, So.) |
| C | 60 | Bradley Vierling (6-3, 294, Sr.) |
| ROG | 66 | Eric Hensley (6-6, 315, Sr.) |
| ROT | 76 | Thomas Welch (6-7, 310, Sr.) |
| TE | 87 | Brandon Barden (6-5, 245, So.) |
| WR | 80 | Justin Wheeler (6-1, 180, Sr.) |
| WR | 23 | Udom Umoh (5-11, 172, So.) |
| WR | 4 | Alex Washington (5-10, 182, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 96 | Steven Stone (6-5, 272, Sr.) |
| LDT | 56 | Greg Billinger (6-3, 287, Sr.) |
| RDT | 59 | Adam Smotherman (6-4, 290, Jr.) |
| RDE | 89 | Teriall Brannon (6-3, 242, Jr.) |
| SLB | 49 | John Stokes (6-5, 228, Jr.) |
| MLB | 13 | Chris Marve (6-0, 228, So.) |
| WLB | 30 | Patrick Benoist (6-0, 224, Sr.) |
| LCB | 19 | Casey Hayward (6-0, 178, So.) |
| RCB | 5 | Myron Lewis (6-3, 205, Sr.) |
| FS | 38 | Sean Richardson (6-2, 198, So.) |
| SS | 2 | Ryan Hamilton (6-2, 208, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 94 | Ryan Fowler (5-10, 165, Fr.) |
| P | 39 | Brett Upson (5-11, 188, Sr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 7-6
**SEC:** 4-4
*(beat Boston College in the Music City Bowl, 16-14)*

**Coach:** Bobby Johnson
8th Year (27-56)
**Career record:** 27-56 (FBS)
**Offensive coordinator:**
Ted Cain (8th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Jamie Bryant (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Vanderbilt Stadium (39,790)
**Tickets:** 877-44-VANDY
**Site:** Nashville, Tenn.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.vucommodores.com

DON MCPEAK / US PRESSWIRE

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Mason Johnston**
*TE, 6-4, 235*
Johnston is a versatile tight-end prospect from one of the top programs in the state of Florida.

**2 — Eric Samuels**
*ATH, 6-0, 187*
Samuels, who has terrific speed, can play running back, receiver or in the secondary.

**3 — Brady Brown**
*WR, 6-5, 195*
Productive and surehanded, Brown totaled 170 receptions for more than 2,000 yards as a junior and senior.

**4 — Wesley Johnson**
*OL, 6-5, 248*
Johnson is a talented offensive-line prospect who should develop into a good player for Vanderbilt.

**5 — Trey Wilson**
*DB, 5-10, 178*
Wilson is an underrated defensive back from Louisiana who could play either safety or cornerback in Nashville.

For the past decade, experts have describe Vanderbilt as "well-coached," as if the statement was a consolation for years of underwhelming performances.

Don't laugh. Vanderbilt really is just that well-coached. Never has 7-6 been so celebrated in the SEC after the 2008 Commodores won their first bowl game in 53 years.

All those five-win seasons were just one big tease, as Vanderbilt started hot and fizzled late in past years, including that 4-0 start in 2005 that finished up at 5-6.

Now the program moves into the role of demanding respect.

"Maybe there was a theory that there's the SEC and then there's Vanderbilt," says Florida coach Urban Meyer, who almost lost to Vandy in a double-overtime game in 2005. "That's certainly not the case now. On the national level, maybe there's more respect for Vanderbilt there."

It's easy to say why Vanderbilt will be better this year with 19 returning starters, but better requires winning eight games. And teams that win eight or more games in the SEC typically have top-shelf recruits, the type of players that don't flock to Nashville. So the Commodores' fate lies in whether discipline, hard work and experience can trump raw talent.

Overall, this team is equal to the 2008 squad. The starters are more seasoned, but something has to offset the loss of D.J. Moore, an All-SEC cornerback who also made his presence felt on offense.

Cornerback Myron Lewis and linebacker Patrick Benoist lead a defense that toes the line between making big plays and limiting mistakes. That defense probably won Vanderbilt four games last year and should rank in the SEC's top five in 2009.

The big-name recruits might come in the future, but for now Vanderbilt needs to thrive on the energy surrounding the program. Commodore fans can say their football program is in better shape than in-state foe Tennessee Volunteers for once.

"There's definitely momentum in talking to recruits, potential donors, ticket-buyers, all throughout the program," coach Bobby Johnson says. "That was the next step we needed to take. Not only to go to a bowl, but to win it. It's paying off with the response we're getting from recruits."

Until that happens, the defense will try to keep Vanderbilt in games. But eventually playmakers must emerge, before the defense gives out, as the Commodores lack a gamebreaker. Wide receiver Justin Wheeler is explosive but isn't used to starting. Running back Jared Hawkins is consistent but unspectacular and tight end Brandon Barden isn't fast.

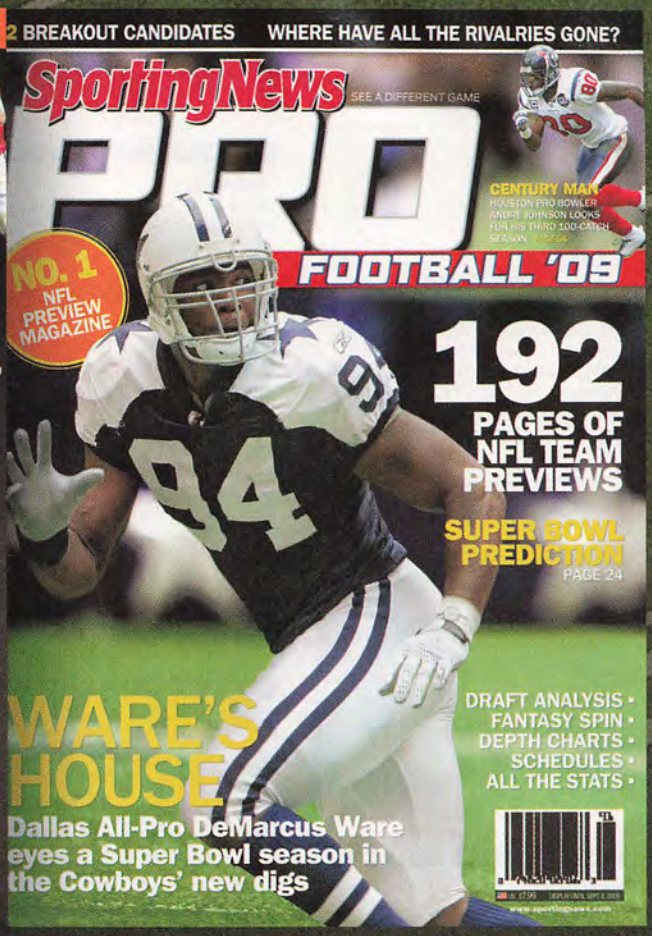
Coaches have high hopes for sophomore quarterback Larry Smith, who took over for Mackenzi Adams for the final two games last year. Smith looked strong during the spring, but Adams will battle him into the fall.

Whoever starts under center has a big job to do, but Vanderbilt should at least be able to duplicate last year's performance.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***BRANDON BARDEN, TE***

Barden caught 28 passes for 209 yards as a freshman in a low-watt Vanderbilt offense. That's like catching 40 balls for Florida. Expect Barden to be a favorite target for projected starter Larry Smith.

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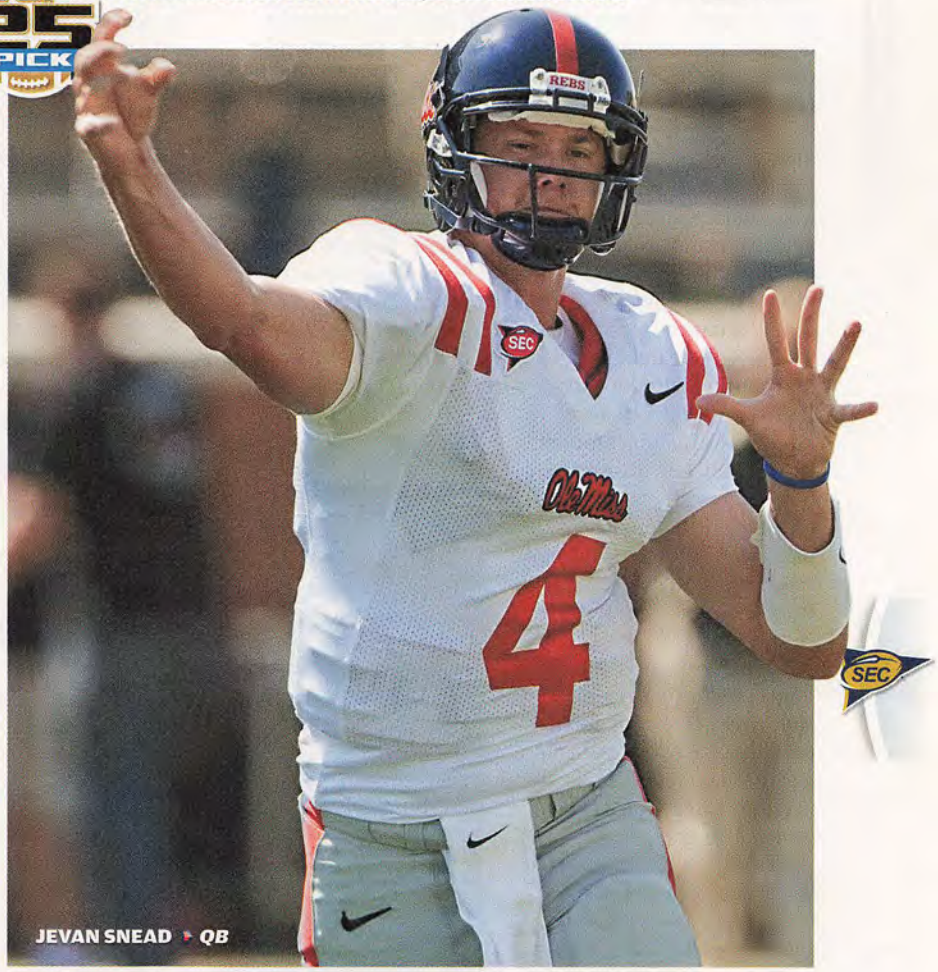
SportingNews YEARBOOKS

SEC WEST PRESEASON RANK

# OLE MISS REBELS

# 1

TOP 25 PICK




JEVAN SNEAD ▸ QB

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @MEMPHIS | 41-24 |
| S.19 | Southeastern Louisiana | |
| S.24 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | 24-31 |
| O.3 | @VANDERBILT | 17-23 |
| O.10 | Alabama | 20-24 |
| O.17 | UAB | |
| O.24 | Arkansas | 23-21 |
| O.31 | @AUBURN | 17-7 |
| N.7 | Northern Arizona | |
| N.14 | Tennessee | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| N.21 | LSU | 31-13 |

The rivalry now known as the Magnolia Bowl served as the Rebels' coming-out party with an 18-point win at Death Valley in 2008. Will 2009 follow suit?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| N.28 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | 45-0 |

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» SUGAR BOWL

BCS BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE » A**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- If Greg Hardy plays to his ability, it could be the last piece for the Rebels' BCS run.
- Houston Nutt's use of the "Wild Rebel" gives defenses fits.

Houston Nutt didn't begin 2008 with a plan to play in the Cotton Bowl. The world would have thought he was crazy.

Not when he was taking over a team that just a year before had zero Southeastern Conference wins under former coach Ed Orgeron.

With talented transfer quarterback Jevan Snead and physical offensive and defensive lines, the Rebels lowered their shoulders, plugged away and hoped for the best.

"It took a lot of time and nurturing," says Nutt, who shared 2008 SEC Coach-of-the-Year honors with Alabama's Nick Saban and Vanderbilt's Bobby Johnson.

There's a lesson in last year's 9-4 surprise record, as Nutt's squad now hopes to solidify its place on the national stage.

"Just go around saying we're a top-five team, we don't do that," Nutt says. "We can have a good team, but there are still a lot of questions. We have to go to work."

Last season, the Rebels were a trendy upset pick for experts, a cool underdog. This year, they are front-runners.

With that comes a responsibility to improve.

"We've got to have a lot of people step up," says Nutt, whose team finished No. 14 in last year's BCS rankings. "We've got to stay healthy. We don't have a lot of depth in the offensive line, unlike the defensive line that has more numbers."

Gone is All-America left tackle Michael Oher, one of three offensive-line starters who exited. A natural run blocker who also protected Snead's back side, Oher paved the way for the Rebels' rushing attack.

Right tackle John Jerry has taken the lead on the line and Nutt lauds him because "he knows how to play hard."

Center Daverin Geralds has also impressed, and left tackle Bradley Sowell gets first crack at filling in for Oher. Freshman Bobbie Massie, the massive Hargrave (Va.) Military Academy signee, has a chance to start, too.

That group will block for burgeoning star Brandon Bolden (542 rushing yards), Enrique Davis (244) and leading returning rusher Cordera Eason (647).

Last year, Nutt received help from a newfangled, oft-copied formation called the "Wild Rebel," which looked like the old single wing and featured diminutive wideout Dexter McCluster and Bolden.

But it never could have happened without an effective offensive line.

"[The young linemen] have to get better, and they really haven't played," Nutt says. "They have the toughest job. They're thinking and talking, and we're asking them to be physical. It's not easy."

Snead says the changes on offense are influencing other spots, not just the line.

"That's affecting us somewhat," Snead says. "Everybody is trying new positions and we're flipping everybody around, and I don't know if we have that chemistry like it was. We're working on that up front. And I've got to improve on my decision-making."

Snead wasted no time making his mark last season, engineering the Rebels' high-powered offense. He groomed it to where Ole Miss not only stayed tough against good defenses, but also upset eventual national champ Florida, overwhelmed LSU and disposed of Texas Tech 47-34 in the Cotton Bowl.

Welcoming back All-SEC kicker Joshua Shene and wideouts Shay Hodge (725 receiving yards) and McCluster only helps.

Ole Miss has fewer holes to fill on the other side of the ball, as it returns eight starters from a unit that ranked 19th nationally in total defense (307.2 yards per game) last year. Thanks to a bruising defensive line, the Rebels were second in the SEC in rushing defense (85.5) and fourth nationally.

But defensive tackle Peria Jerry is off to the NFL, taking his 10 career sacks with him. Ends Kentrell Lockett and Marcus Tillman will have to ramp up their games if this unit wants to be as dominant. And don't forget Greg Hardy, the All-America-caliber end who has battled attitude and health issues the past two seasons. He missed the spring with a stress fracture in his foot, though Nutt is optimistic.

"Greg Hardy has been doing great with his rehab," Nutt says. "He has made every meeting and I've been very proud of his attitude. It is the best that I have ever seen it."

Tackle Ted Laurent started seven games and played in all 13, recording 24 tackles. Backup Jerrell Powe, whose multiyear eligibility battle earned him more headlines than practices, finally has his weight down to 340. It's time to find out if he's a star.

The linebacking corps of Jonathan Cornell, Allen Walker and Patrick Trahan is physical, with Trahan drawing raves for his work this past spring.

"[Trahan] is so fast and so quick," Nutt says.

"He's gaining so much confidence, and that's what you have to have."

In the secondary, the leading returning tackler is safety Kendrick Lewis (85), though Cassius Vaughn and Marshay Green are back.

## RECRUITING REPORT

The Rebels signed an SEC-high 37 prospects and closed better than just about anyone in the country. Houston Nutt and his staff landed wide receiver **Patrick Patterson**, quarterback **Raymond Cotton**, tight end **Zaccheus Mason**, linebackers **D.T. Shackelford, Joel Kight** and **Mike Marry**, offensive tackle **Bobbie Massie**, defensive tackle **Corey Gaines** and defensive end **Craig Drummond** all late in the process. Along the way, they beat recruiting powers Alabama, Tennessee, LSU and Georgia.

The Rebels hit Florida hard and got some gems in running backs **Rodney Scott** and **Korvic Neat** and defensive backs **Frank Crawford** and **Artice Kellam.** Safety **Darius Barksdale** will also show up in Oxford. He was the state's top prospect a year ago but failed to qualify academically.

There's no question Nutt has the most surprising class in the SEC, having picked up where former coach Ed Orgeron left off.

*–Jamie Newberg, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *BOBBIE MASSIE, LT*

After snatching the blue-chip tackle from Alabama before signing day, Ole Miss figures to eventually replace Michael Oher with Massie.

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

| Jevan Snead | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 13 | 145.51 | 327-184-13 | 56.3 | 2762 | 26 | 212.5 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dexter McCluster | 13 | 109 | 655 | 6.0 | 6 | 50.4 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shay Hodge | 12 | 44 | 725 | 16.5 | 8 | 60.4 |
| Dexter McCluster | 13 | 44 | 625 | 14.2 | 1 | 48.1 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kendrick Lewis | 13 | 51 | 34 | 85 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Greg Hardy | 8 | 8.5 | 73 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kendrick Lewis | 4 | 44 | 11.0 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-4
**SEC:** 5-3
*(beat Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl, 47-34)*

**Coach:** Houston Nutt
2nd year (9-4)
**Career record:** 89-59 (FBS)
**Offensive coordinator:**
Kent Austin (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Tyrone Nix (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Vaught-Hemingway Stadium (60,580)
**Tickets:** 888-732-8587
**Site:** Oxford, Miss.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.olemisssports.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 4 | Jevan Snead (6-3, 215, Jr.) |
| | 17 | Billy Tapp (6-4, 230, Sr.) |
| FB | 43 | Andy Hartmann (5-10, 243, Sr.) |
| | 30 | Derrick Davis (5-10, 224, Jr.) |
| RB | 34 | Brandon Bolden (5-11, 220, So.) |
| | 25 | Cordera Eason (5-10, 224, Sr.) |
| LOT | 78 | Bradley Sowell (6-7, 310, So.) |
| | | Bobbie Massie (6-7, 345, Fr.) |
| LOG | 75 | Rishaw Johnson (6-4, 295, So.) |
| | 63 | Brandon Green (6-2, 300, Sr.) |
| C | 72 | Daverin Geralds (6-2, 312, Sr.) |
| | 65 | Mark Jean-Louis (6-2, 355, Sr.) |
| ROG | 71 | Reid Neely (6-6, 310, Sr.) |
| | 62 | Don Mosley (6-1, 300, Jr.) |
| ROT | 77 | John Jerry (6-5, 350, Sr.) |
| | 54 | Logan Clair (6-5, 305, Jr.) |
| TE | 80 | Gerald Harris (6-5, 250, Sr.) |
| | 32 | Reggie Hicks (6-1, 234, Jr.) |
| WR | 3 | Shay Hodge (6-1, 207, Sr.) |
| | 16 | Markeith Summers (6-2, 197, Jr.) |
| WR | 22 | Dexter McCluster (5-8, 165, Sr.) |
| | 21 | Lionel Breaux (6-0, 191, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 92 | Marcus Tillman (6-4, 260, Sr.) |
| | 95 | Emmanuel Stephens (6-3, 235, Sr.) |
| LDT | 99 | Ted Laurent (6-0, 303, Jr.) |
| | 57 | Jerrell Powe (6-2, 340, Jr.) |
| RDT | 96 | Lawon Scott (6-1, 322, Jr.) |
| | 93 | Justin Smith (6-4, 280, So.) |
| RDE | 86 | Greg Hardy (6-4, 265, Sr.) |
| | 40 | Kentrell Lockett (6-5, 240, Jr.) |
| SLB | 9 | Allen Walker (6-1, 215, Jr.) |
| | 48 | Lamar Brumfield (6-0, 224, Sr.) |
| MLB | 51 | Jonathan Cornell (6-1, 225, Jr.) |
| | 53 | Jason Jones (6-2, 220, Fr.) |
| WLB | 7 | Patrick Trahan (6-3, 225, Sr.) |
| | 37 | Lekenwic Haynes (6-3, 205, Fr.) |
| LCB | 8 | Marshay Green (5-9, 170, Sr.) |
| | 6 | Jeremy McGee (5-10, 178, Jr.) |
| RCB | 24 | Cassius Vaughn (5-10, 185, Sr.) |
| | 41 | Marcus Temple (5-9, 181, So.) |
| FS | 1 | Kendrick Lewis (5-11, 192, Sr.) |
| | 30 | Jared Mitchell (6-3, 180, Fr.) |
| SS | 20 | Johnny Brown (5-11, 207, Jr.) |
| | 39 | Derrick Herman (5-11, 185, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 93 | Joshua Shene (5-8, 170, Sr.) |
| P | 89 | Justin Sparks (6-2, 187, Sr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

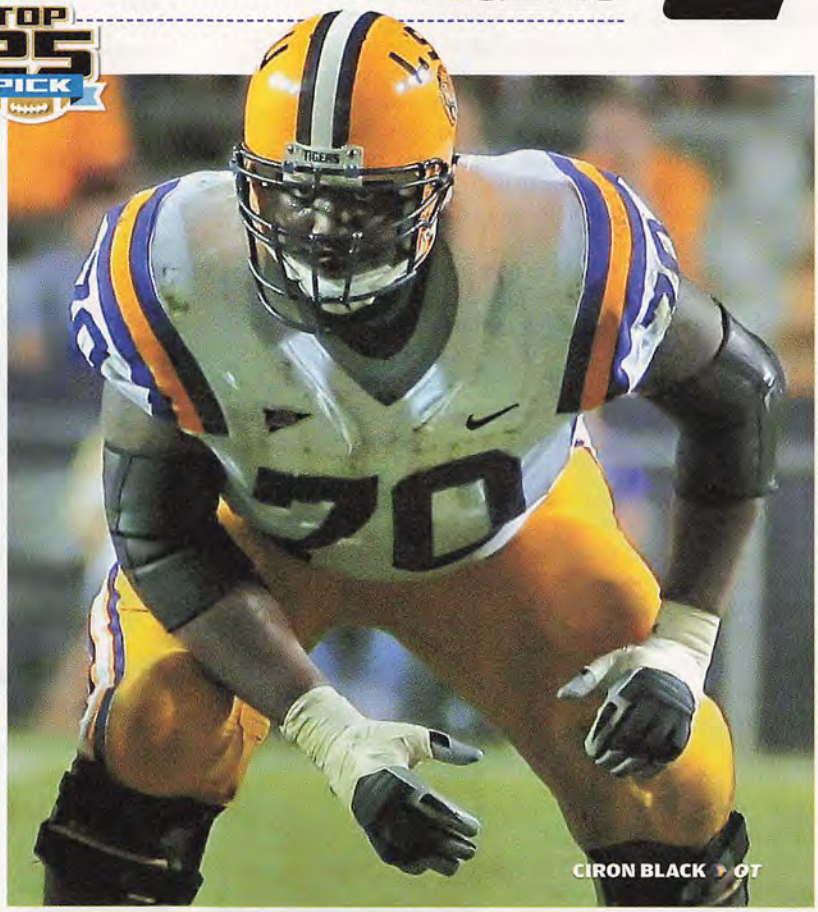
## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | OLE MISS | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 417 | 247 |
| Points Per Game | 32.1 | 19.0 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 256 | 222 |
| Rushing | 122 | 86 |
| Passing | 124 | 117 |
| Penalty | 10 | 19 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2424 | 1112 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2668 | 1593 |
| Yards lost rushing | 244 | 481 |
| Rushing Attempts | 520 | 411 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.7 | 2.7 |
| Average Per Game | 186.5 | 85.5 |
| TDs Rushing | 21 | 9 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2875 | 2882 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 340-190-15 | 437-257-16 |
| Average Per Pass | 8.5 | 6.6 |
| Average Per Catch | 15.1 | 11.2 |
| Average Per Game | 221.2 | 221.7 |
| TDs Passing | 27 | 18 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5299 | 3994 |
| Total Plays | 860 | 848 |
| Average Per Play | 6.2 | 4.7 |
| Average Per Game | 407.6 | 307.2 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 48-1056 | 63-1273 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 36-380 | 15-89 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 16-274 | 15-267 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | OLE MISS | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 22.0 | 20.2 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 10.6 | 5.9 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 17.1 | 17.8 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 20-10 | 21-7 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 66-624 | 79-596 |
| Average Per Game | 48.0 | 45.8 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 54-2099 | 78-3056 |
| Average Per Punt | 38.9 | 39.2 |
| Net punt average | 36.5 | 32.8 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 30:14 | 29:37 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 75/173 | 60/187 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 43% | 32% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 9/14 | 12/22 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 64% | 55% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 38-292 | 20-102 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 52 | 30 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 17-21 | 13-16 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 52-52 | 28-29 |
| ATTENDANCE | 371036 | 381047 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 7/53005 | 5/76209 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/88175 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ole Miss | 113 | 133 | 80 | 91 | 417 |
| Opponent | 59 | 81 | 27 | 80 | 247 |

# LSU TIGERS 2




## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @WASHINGTON | |
| S.12 | Vanderbilt | |
| S.19 | Louisiana-Lafayette | |
| S.26 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | 34-24 |
| O.3 | @GEORGIA | 38-52 |
| O.10 | Florida | 21-51 |
| O.24 | Auburn | 26-21 |
| O.31 | Tulane | 35-10 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| N.7 | @ALABAMA | 21-27 (OT) |
| After Nick Saban made the Tiger faithful wish he had never left Baton Rouge in 2008, LSU coach Les Miles gets his chance for payback this season. | | |
| N.14 | Louisiana Tech | |
| N.21 | @Ole Miss | 13-31 |
| N.28 | Arkansas | 30-31 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** MIDDLE TIER BOWL
» CAPITAL ONE BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE » A-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» Dual-threat quarterback Jordan Jefferson is talented but inconsistent.
» The Tigers still have as much athleticism and talent up front as anyone.

Only in Baton Rouge does a down year mean eight wins and a trip to the Chick-fil-A Bowl. It also means major changes are needed at quarterback and on defense.

Will business as usual return to Death Valley? Coach Les Miles, who had won 85 percent of his games going into last season yet stumbled to 8-5 overall and 3-5 in the Southeastern Conference in 2008, thinks so.

Out is mistake-prone Jarrett Lee, the quarterback whose four interceptions in an overtime loss to then-No. 1 Alabama helped doom his fate. In is sophomore Jordan Jefferson, who came on late last season, then starred in the blowout bowl victory over Georgia Tech.

"It's nice to see a quarterback step under center and have the opportunity to make throws, pick up big third downs and move the football," Miles says. "Jordan Jefferson is certainly in the lead and looks to be making his case to be the starter."

On defense, out are co-coordinators Doug Mallory and Bradley Dale Peveto, who both end disastrous tenures that saw the Tigers fall to 56th in scoring defense. In is former longtime Tennessee coordinator John Chavis. The savvy veteran is expected to turn around this talented group.

"There's a little different feel over there right now," says Miles of the defense. "I like the way it's going. There's a great enthusiasm and a want to be special. It's what we need. For this football team to be as good as they're capable, that defense has to come to life, and they have."

Miles likes his changes and is confident the Tigers won't slip and slide into a repeat of last season.

"Our team right now is working as hard as any team that we've had here," says Miles, who owns a national title ring.

As they seem to every year, the Tigers have spectacular talent at receiver.

Senior speedster Brandon LaFell (63 catches, 929 yards, 8 TDs) is back, though he's without help from departed Demetrius Byrd. Tight end Richard Dickson, a red-zone threat who had 31 catches for 324 yards and five scores in 2008, gives Jefferson a security blanket while world-class sprinter Trindon Holliday (2,229 career all-purpose yards) provides versatility. The talent doesn't stop there, as a key member of a touted signee class is instant-impact receiver Rueben Randle.

"Our receivers will be as good, better than they were a year ago," Miles says.

The running game has more firepower, too. The SEC's leading returning rusher just happens to be in LSU's backfield. Senior Charles Scott (1,174 yards, 18 TDs) decided against entering the NFL draft and should continue to abuse collegiate defenses.

But the key is Jefferson, who must avoid forcing the ball into tight coverage as Lee did last season. Though steady is enough, he wants more.

DERICK HINGLE / ICON SMI

"We work hard on getting the offense to make the right reads and know where to go with the ball," Jefferson says. "It makes me feel more comfortable for the season. This year, I understand the playbook more, and I'm able to bring more to the table."

Jefferson is the starter. But watch for cameos from Russell Shepard, the nation's No. 1 quarterback signee.

"Any time [Shepard] has the ball in his hands, he has a chance to make a big play," says Miles of the prep All-American from Houston. "The key is he makes a great decision with the ball. He's been really good about where to throw it. When he pulls it down, he runs and really eats up some ground. He's going to be an exciting addition to the team. How it all fits and comes together will be kind of wait-and-see."

There's one caveat to the Tigers' overwhelming offensive talent: LSU can't block well. Like no other time in Miles' tenure, the line is thin. The team lost two offensive linemen, but one is the massive Herman Johnson.

"We're lacking [in depth] on the offensive line," Miles says. "It'll be interesting to see this freshman class come in because they're going to have an opportunity to compete very quickly."

Will the defense back up the offense this year? The addition of Chavis makes it more likely. A 14-year assistant at Tennessee, he won't likely allow a repeat of what happened last year, when the Tigers gave up 51 points to Florida, 52 to Georgia and 31 each to Troy and Ole Miss.

This year, the defense returns its three leading tacklers. Senior linebacker Harry Coleman led the way with 71 last season, while Kelvin Sheppard had 64 and Perry Riley made 60, including 11 to earn Chick-fil-A Bowl MVP honors.

From a secondary that only picked off eight passes last year, Chad Jones is welcomed back at safety, while signee Craig Loston could get playing time early.

Meanwhile the defensive line should be salty as usual, thanks to Rahim Alem, Charles Alexander, Drake Nevis, Lazarius Levingston and Al Woods. Expect big things from this unit, since it has a new defensive-line coach. The charismatic Brick Haley left a job with the Chicago Bears to get back into college football.

## RECRUITING REPORT

LSU racked up in recruiting once again and did it both in Louisiana and around the region. This is an unbelievable class with in-state stars in wide receiver **Rueben Randle**, defensive tackles **Chris Davenport** and **Josh Downs**, running back **Michael Ford**, linebacker **Barkevious Mingo** and offensive linemen **Carneal Ainsworth** and **Chris Faulk**. The Tigers also landed out-of-state standouts like QB **Russell Shepard**.

The outstanding class is balanced with speed and athleticism across the board. Randle, Shepard, Davenport and Loston are all five-star prospects. Despite the talent already in Baton Rouge, it will be difficult to keep these prospects off the field.

The Tigers lost five-star cornerback Janzen Jackson to Tennessee, DeAngelo Benton to Auburn and Kenny Bell to Alabama on National Signing Day. That cost them the No. 1 class in the country.

*—Jamie Newberg, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *RUSSELL SHEPARD, QB*

The freshman phenom could be a quarterback or a receiver, and figures to light up opponents however the ball gets in his hands.

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

| | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jarrett Lee | 11 | 116.93 | 269-143-16 | 53.2 | 1873 | 14 | 170.3 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Charles Scott | 13 | 217 | 1174 | 5.4 | 18 | 90.3 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brandon LaFell | 13 | 63 | 929 | 14.7 | 8 | 71.5 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harry Coleman | 13 | 42 | 29 | 71 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rahim Alem | 13 | 8 | 66 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chris Hawkins | 3 | -13 | -4.3 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5
**SEC:** 3-5
*(beat Georgia Tech in the Chick-fil-A Bowl, 38-3)*

**Coach:** Les Miles
5th Year (42-11)
**Career record:** 70-32
**Offensive coordinator:**
Gary Crowton (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
John Chavis (1st year)

**Stadium:** Tiger Stadium (92,400)
**Tickets:** 800-960-8587
**Site:** Baton Rouge
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.lsusports.net

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 9 | Jordan Jefferson (6-4, 209, So.) |
| | 12 | Jarrett Lee (6-2, 216, So.) |
| FB | 62 | Richard Dugas (6-1, 275, Jr.) |
| | 34 | Stevan Ridley (5-11, 222, So.) |
| RB | 32 | Charles Scott (5-11, 233, Sr.) |
| | 5 | Keiland Williams (5-11, 229, Sr.) |
| LOT | 70 | Ciron Black (6-5, 325, Sr.) |
| | 75 | Greg Shaw (6-5, 290, So.) |
| LOG | 68 | Josh Dworaczyk (6-6, 286, So.) |
| | 60 | Will Blackwell (6-4, 298, So.) |
| C | 53 | T-Bob Hebert (6-3, 282, So.) |
| | 64 | Patrick Lonergan (6-4, 288, Fr.) |
| ROG | 65 | Lyle Hitt (6-2, 289, Sr.) |
| | 60 | Will Blackwell (6-4, 298, So.) |
| ROT | 78 | Joseph Barksdale (6-5, 315, Jr.) |
| | 61 | Trey Helms (6-4, 259, So.) |
| TE | 18 | Richard Dickson (6-3, 246, Sr.) |
| | 29 | Jarred Joseph (6-1, 209, Fr.) |
| WR | 1 | Brandon LaFell (6-3, 209, Sr.) |
| | 87 | Jared Mitchell (5-11, 201, Sr.) |
| WR | 80 | Terrance Toliver (6-4, 194, Jr.) |
| | 8 | Trindon Holliday (5-5, 164, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 95 | Lazarius Levingston (6-4, 269, Jr.) |
| | 88 | Chase Clement (6-5, 255, Fr.) |
| LDT | 91 | Charles Alexander (6-3, 310, Sr.) |
| | 96 | Kentravis Aubrey (6-3, 285, So.) |
| RDT | 97 | Al Woods (6-4, 323, Sr.) |
| | 92 | Drake Nevis (6-1, 294, Jr.) |
| RDE | 84 | Rahim Alem (6-3, 254, Sr.) |
| | 81 | Chancey Aghayere (6-4, 269, Fr.) |
| SLB | 56 | Perry Riley (6-1, 240, Sr.) |
| | 88 | Chase Clement (6-5, 255, Fr.) |
| MLB | 54 | Jacob Cutrera (6-4, 236, Sr.) |
| | 24 | Harry Coleman (6-2, 205, Sr.) |
| WLB | 11 | Kelvin Sheppard (6-3, 237, Jr.) |
| | 22 | Ryan Baker (6-0, 213, So.) |
| LCB | 4 | Jai Eugene (5-11, 191, Jr.) |
| | 7 | Patrick Peterson (6-1, 205, So.) |
| RCB | 29 | Chris Hawkins (6-1, 184, Sr.) |
| | 13 | Ron Brooks (5-11, 175, So.) |
| FS | 24 | Harry Coleman (6-2, 205, Sr.) |
| | | Craig Loston (6-2, 193, Fr.) |
| SS | 3 | Chad Jones (6-3, 214, Jr.) |
| | 44 | Danny McCray (6-1, 212, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 30 | Josh Jasper (5-11, 165, Jr.) |
| P | 30 | Josh Jasper (5-11, 165, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | LSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 402 | 314 |
| Points Per Game | 30.9 | 24.2 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 254 | 211 |
| Rushing | 122 | 76 |
| Passing | 114 | 114 |
| Penalty | 18 | 21 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2168 | 1432 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2510 | 1751 |
| Yards lost rushing | 342 | 319 |
| Rushing Attempts | 495 | 421 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.4 | 3.4 |
| Average Per Game | 166.8 | 110.2 |
| TDs Rushing | 27 | 17 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 2617 | 2800 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 391-206-18 | 425-227-8 |
| Average Per Pass | 6.7 | 6.6 |
| Average Per Catch | 12.7 | 12.3 |
| Average Per Game | 201.3 | 215.4 |
| TDs Passing | 21 | 15 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4785 | 4232 |
| Total Plays | 886 | 846 |
| Average Per Play | 5.4 | 5.0 |
| Average Per Game | 368.1 | 325.5 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 54-1053 | 70-1234 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 31-380 | 15-127 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 8-51 | 18-461 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | LSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 19.5 | 17.6 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 12.3 | 8.5 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 6.4 | 25.6 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 16-2 | 26-11 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 82-649 | 75-637 |
| Average Per Game | 49.9 | 49.0 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 63-2538 | 75-3124 |
| Average Per Punt | 40.3 | 41.7 |
| Net punt average | 37.3 | 35.8 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 30:13 | 29:47 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 70/183 | 57/183 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 38% | 31% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 7/18 | 9/22 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 39% | 41% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 28-172 | 22-185 |
| MISC YARDS | -11 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 50 | 39 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 18-23 | 14-19 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 48-49 | 38-38 |
| ATTENDANCE | 739065 | 315937 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 8/92383 | 4/78984 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/71423 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LSU | 81 | 137 | 89 | 95 | 0 | 402 |
| Opponents | 82 | 85 | 63 | 78 | 6 | 314 |

# ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE 3

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @VIRGINIA TECH* | |
| S.12 | Florida International | |
| S.19 | North Texas | |
| S.26 | Arkansas | 49-14 |
| 0.3 | @KENTUCKY | 17-14 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **0.10** | **@OLE MISS** | **24-20** |
| Both teams could be undefeated for a series that always comes down to the last play and usually includes controversy. Could it decide the SEC West? | | |
| 0.17 | South Carolina | |
| 0.24 | Tennessee | 29-9 |
| N.7 | LSU | 27-21 (OT) |
| N.14 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | 32-7 |
| N.21 | Chattanooga | |
| N.27 | @AUBURN | 36-0 |

** at Atlanta*

**BOWL PROJECTION** MIDDLE TIER BOWL

» OUTBACK BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE A-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» Toughest defense against the rush in the country.
» Is Greg McElroy the answer at quarterback?

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 12 | Greg McElroy (6-3, 218, Jr.) |
| RB | 22 | Mark Ingram (5-10, 215, So.) |
| LOT | 77 | James Carpenter (6-5, 305, Jr.) |
| LOG | 78 | Mike Johnson (6-6, 305, Sr.) |
| C | 73 | William Vlachos (6-0, 305, Jr.) |
| ROG | 67 | John Michael Boswell (6-5, 300, So.) |
| ROT | 79 | Drew Davis (6-7, 305, Jr.) |
| TE | 84 | Colin Peek (6-6, 247, Sr.) |
| TE | 17 | Brad Smelley (6-3, 218, So.) |
| WR | 8 | Julio Jones (6-4, 210, So.) |
| WR | 80 | Mike McCoy (6-2, 205, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 95 | Brandon Deaderick (6-4, 287, Sr.) |
| NT | 62 | Terrence Cody (6-5, 365, Sr.) |
| RDE | 97 | Lorenzo Washington (6-5, 275, Sr.) |
| LOLB | 13 | Cory Reamer (6-4, 218, Sr.) |
| LILB | 98 | Brandon Fanney (6-4, 257, Sr.) |
| RILB | 25 | Rolando McClain (6-4, 249, Jr.) |
| ROLB | 30 | Dont'a Hightower (6-4, 250, So.) |
| LCB | 28 | Javier Arenas (5-9, 198, Sr.) |
| RCB | 3 | Kareem Jackson (5-11, 192, Jr.) |
| FS | 27 | Justin Woodall (6-2, 220, Sr.) |
| SS | 23 | Robby Green (6-0, 180, So.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 99 | Leigh Tiffin (6-1, 199, Sr.) |
| P | 97 | PJ Fitzgerald (5-11, 198, Sr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 12-2
**SEC:** 8-0
*(lost to Utah in the Sugar Bowl, 31-17)*

**Coach:** Nick Saban, 3rd year (19-8)
**Career record:** 110-50-1
**Offensive coordinator:** Jim McElwain (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:** Kirby Smart (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Bryant-Denny Stadium (92,138)
**Tickets:** 205-348-BAMA
**Site:** Tuscaloosa
**Official athletic Web site:** www.rolltide.com

JULIO JONES » WR

BOB LEVERONE

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

**KEY**
Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — D.J. Fluker**
*OT, 6-7, 340*
Fluker is an athletic monster at tackle, a position he has played for only one season. His upside is off the charts.

**2 — Trent Richardson**
*RB, 5-11, 220*
Richardson has the body and makeup to play immediately. He's a power back with deceptive speed and quickness.

**3 — Dre Kirkpatrick**
*CB, 6-2, 180*
Kirkpatrick is the nation's top high school cornerback. He has outstanding ball skills.

**4 — Nico Johnson**
*LB, 6-3, 226*
Johnson is the No. 2 outside linebacker in the nation. He can get close to the football in a hurry.

**5 — James Carpenter**
*OT, 6-5, 305*
Carpenter is a junior-college transfer who is already in Tuscaloosa making an impact on the offensive front.

Greg McElroy has never had a problem being patient. Already a thoughtful player, he used his time on the sidelines to be more strategic.

That's what McElroy did for three years behind future Missouri star Chase Daniel at Southlake Carroll (Texas) High.

He did so again as Alabama quarterback John Parker Wilson rewrote the record book.

The junior is done waiting. A quarterback battle between McElroy, the athletic redshirt freshman Star Jackson and strong-armed walk-on Thomas Darrah never materialized.

On the heels of a 12-2 season that included a Southeastern Conference title game appearance but ended bitterly with a loss to Utah in the Sugar Bowl, McElroy is the player charged with leading the team back to national prominence.

"Now, I'm ready for my turn," McElroy says.

To raise the bar from last season, the foundation under McElroy must be sound.

Sophomore receiver Julio Jones, whose sensational freshman season vaulted him into national consciousness, returns after catching 58 balls for 924 yards and four touchdowns a year ago. It's up to Mike McCoy, Earl Alexander and Marquis Maze to serve as complements.

The biggest questions concern whether a power running attack that gained the second-most rushing yards in the SEC can be replicated.

The offensive line must replace three starters, including left tackle and Outland Trophy winner Andre Smith and All-America center Antoine Caldwell. Junior-college transfer James Carpenter (left tackle) and strongman William Vlachos (center) attempt to fill in, while recruit D.J. Fluker will have a chance to compete as well.

There is promise in slashing tailback Mark Ingram, the best back returning after the early departure of Glen Coffee to the NFL.

But the X-factor is star recruit Trent Richardson, who resembles another product out of Escambia (Fla.) High in Emmitt Smith.

As for the defense, it is stout, tough and maybe the best in the country.

It was second in the nation in stopping the run last season (74.1 yards per game) and third in total defense (263.5). And the Tide lost only two starters, although one of them was All-America safety Rashad Johnson (5 INTs).

All-America nose tackle Terrence Cody returns lighter and, in his words, "hungrier." All-America linebacker Rolando McClain (95 tackles) is a headache to deal with, while Brandon Fanney (9 tackles for loss) and Dont'a Hightower will solidify the run defense and rush the passer.

Add ball-hawking cornerback (and All-America return man) Javier Arenas to the discussion, and opponents will struggle to score in '09.

Even coach Nick Saban can't avoid the optimism.

"If we can get every player to improve, the unit should improve," Saban says.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***TRENT RICHARDSON, RB***

The big, powerful freshman could win the starting job in camp and fulfill the promise and hype he generated during recruiting.

# 4 AUBURN TIGERS

By mid-April, after a record crowd showed up at Auburn's spring game and saw a big-play offensive showcase, the attitude around the program changed.

The distaste with the tumultuous 2008 campaign was gone. The frustration with the hiring of coach Gene Chizik had given way to the optimism generated by his high-powered staff and recruiting haul.

"It's just a lot more fun," running back Ben Tate says. "It's a lot better atmosphere around here right now."

What a difference a few months made.

Auburn spent the 2008 offseason in a high-stakes game of "What have you done for me lately?" Out went Tommy Tuberville, the coach who led the Tigers to an 85-40 record over the past decade, including a 13-0 season in 2004.

Last year's 36-0 rout by then-No. 1 Alabama was the final straw for Tuberville after a 5-7 season that saw the Tigers miss a bowl appearance for the first time since 1999.

In came Chizik, who was the defensive coordinator with that perfect 2004 Tigers team and earned a national title ring as a co-defensive coordinator at Texas.

The negative response was not what Auburn athletics director Jay Jacobs was looking for. In just one example, an outspoken Auburn fan created a YouTube classic when he met Jacobs' plane at the airport, screaming, "We want a winner, not a loser."

Slowly, Chizik changed the fan perception that he is wrong for the job. He hired a top-flight staff and vowed to bring a hard-nosed defense and play-making offense to every game.

But does Chizik have the roster to pull it off?

There is talent. The elusive Tate has already gained 1,295 career rushing yards, proving to be an SEC-caliber player. His colleague, the versatile Mario Fannin, could line up anywhere as he hopes to improve on 238 rushing yards from last season.

At receiver, Rod Smith, Montez Billings and Robert Dunn are gone, with Fannin and tight end Tommy Trott the two leading returnees. The team must see improvement from Darvin Adams, Quindarius Carr and others.

Auburn's biggest question mark is at quarterback. In 2008, the Tigers were 99th in the nation in passing offense. An overlooked Neil Caudle outshined '08 starter Kodi Burns during spring camp, as senior Chris Todd nursed his ailing shoulder and redshirt freshman Barrett Trotter tore knee ligaments.

The spring ended with coordinator Gus Malzahn calling the battle a draw between the running Burns and the passing Caudle, despite Caudle's dominance in the spring game.

The defense should keep Auburn in games, even though it lost linemen Tez Doolittle and Sen'Derrick Marks and corner Jerraud Powers.

The secondary is talented with leading tackler Zac Etheridge (75 stops) and Walter McFadden (8 passes broken up) returning. Still, free safety Mike McNeil's broken leg added a sour taste to the spring.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***ELTORO FREEMAN, LB***

As soon as this junior-college transfer made his much-anticipated arrival, he was in the starting lineup and attacking ballcarriers.

BEN TATE ▷ RB

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7
**SEC:** 2-6

**Coach:** Gene Chizik, 1st year
**Career record:** 5-19
**Offensive coordinator:** Gus Malzahn (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:** Ted Roof (1st year)

**Stadium:** Jordan-Hare Stadium (87,451)
**Tickets:** 800-AUB-1957
**Site:** Auburn, Ala.
**Official athletic Web site:** www.auburntigers.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

KEY
Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Louisiana Tech | |
| S.12 | Mississippi State | 3-2 |
| S.19 | West Virginia | 17-34 |
| S.26 | Ball State | |
| O.3 | @TENNESSEE | 14-12 |
| O.10 | @ARKANSAS | 22-25 |
| O.17 | Kentucky | |
| O.24 | @LSU | 21-26 |
| O.31 | Ole Miss | 7-17 |
| N.7 | Furman | |
| N.14 | @GEORGIA | 13-17 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.27 Alabama** **0-36**

A brutal schedule may welcome Gene Chizik rudely back to the Tigers, but the season can be saved with an Iron Bowl victory over Nick Saban's Crimson Tide.

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» COTTON BOWL
MIDDLE TIER BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE C**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» No quarterback has emerged.
» Fast-paced, spread offense should keep things interesting.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 19 | Neil Caudle (6-3, 199, Jr.) |
| RB | 44 | Ben Tate (5-11, 217, Sr.) |
| LOT | 73 | Lee Ziemba (6-8, 304, Jr.) |
| LOG | 57 | Byron Isom (6-3, 293, Jr.) |
| C | 50 | Ryan Pugh (6-4, 287, Jr.) |
| ROG | 66 | Mike Berry (6-3, 313, Jr.) |
| ROT | 75 | Andrew McCain (6-6, 295, Sr.) |
| TE | 5 | Tommy Trott (6-5, 237, Sr.) |
| WR | 85 | Quindarius Carr (6-1, 181, So.) |
| WR | 13 | Tim Hawthorne (6-3, 214, Jr.) |
| WR | 89 | Darvin Adams (6-3, 184, So.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 52 | Antonio Coleman (6-3, 257, Sr.) |
| LDT | 91 | Jake Ricks (6-4, 296, Sr.) |
| RDT | 93 | Mike Blanc (6-4, 288, Jr.) |
| RDE | 49 | Michael Goggans (6-3, 257, Jr.) |
| SLB | 21 | Eltoro Freeman (5-11, 222, Jr.) |
| MLB | 17 | Josh Bynes (6-2, 233, Jr.) |
| WLB | 46 | Craig Stevens (6-3, 227, Jr.) |
| LCB | 6 | Walter McFadden (6-0, 176, Sr.) |
| RCB | 2 | Aairon Savage (5-11, 173, Sr.) |
| FS | 26 | Mike McNeil (6-2, 205, Jr.) |
| SS | 4 | Zac Etheridge (6-0, 204, Jr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 1 | Chris Brooks (6-0, 164, Fr.) |
| P | 97 | Clinton Durst (6-1, 192, So.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Tyrik Rollison**
*QB, 6-2, 185*
Rollison could turn out to be the steal of the SEC. He's an athletic quarterback with a great arm.

**2 — Philip Lutzenkirchen**
*TE, 6-4, 245*
Lutzenkirchen is a super pass-catching tight end with great hands. He should fit in well the new offense.

**3 — Dontae Aycock**
*RB, 5-10, 216*
Aycock played quarterback in high school but projects as a running back. He runs with power and balance.

**4 — DeAngelo Benton**
*WR, 6-3, 210*
Auburn stole Benton away from LSU on National Signing Day. He should be a playmaker in the new Auburn offense.

**5 — Onterio McCalebb**
*RB, 6-0, 175*
McCalebb is on the small side weight-wise, but he should give the Tigers a threat.

JOHN REED / US PRESSWIRE

# ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS 5

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Missouri State* | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.19 Georgia**

If coach Bobby Petrino is going to make that big leap in Year 2, beating the Bulldogs at home will set the tone.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.26 | @ALABAMA | 14-49 |
| 0.3 | @TEXAS A&M** | |
| 0.10 | Auburn | 25-22 |
| 0.17 | @FLORIDA | 7-38 |
| 0.24 | @OLE MISS | 21-23 |
| 0.31 | Eastern Michigan | |
| N.7 | South Carolina | 21-34 |
| N.14 | Troy | |
| N.21 | MISSISSIPPI STATE* | 28-31 |
| N.28 | @LSU | 31-30 |

** At Little Rock, AR*
*** At Arlington, TX*

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL
» INDEPENDENCE BOWL

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» Strong-armed quarterback Ryan Mallett makes his debut.
» Tackling and discipline must improve on defense.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 15 | Ryan Mallett (6-7, 248, So.) |
| FB | 30 | Mitchell Bailey (5-11, 221, So.) |
| RB | 21 | Michael Smith (5-7, 176, Sr.) |
| LOT | 73 | Ray Dominguez (6-4, 329, Jr.) |
| LOG | 66 | Mitch Petrus (6-4, 315, Sr.) |
| C | 71 | Wade Grayson (6-4, 289, Jr.) |
| ROG | 72 | Grant Cook (6-4, 322, So.) |
| ROT | 65 | DeMarcus Love (6-5, 305, Jr.) |
| TE | 45 | D.J. Williams (6-2, 251, Jr.) |
| WR | 3 | Joe Adams (5-11, 177, So.) |
| WR | 2 | London Crawford (6-2, 204, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 91 | Jake Bequette (6-5, 271, So.) |
| LDT | 61 | Zach Stadther (6-1, 289, So.) |
| RDT | 96 | Malcolm Sheppard (6-2, 280, Sr.) |
| RDE | 18 | Adrian Davis (6-4, 250, Sr.) |
| SLB | 46 | Freddy Burton (6-2, 227, Jr.) |
| MLB | 10 | Wendel Davis (6-1, 222, Sr.) |
| WLB | 34 | Jerry Franklin (6-1, 237, So.) |
| LCB | 26 | Ramon Broadway (5-9, 191, Jr.) |
| RCB | 24 | Isaac Madison (5-10, 181, Jr.) |
| FS | 39 | Matt Harris (6-2, 190, Sr.) |
| SS | 31 | Jerico Nelson (5-9, 197, So.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PK | 7 | Alex Tejada (6-0, 205, Jr.) |
| P | 7 | Alex Tejada (6-0, 205, Jr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7
**SEC:** 2-6

**Coach:** Bobby Petrino
2nd year (5-7)
**Career record:** 46-16
**Offensive coordinator:**
Paul Petrino (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Willy Robinson (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium (72,000)
**Tickets:** 800-982-4647
**Site:** Fayetteville
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.hogwired.com

NELSON CHENAULT / US PRESSWIRE

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 Darius Winston**
*CB, 6-0, 180*
Winston is a true cover corner with size, speed and great ball skills. He'll have a chance to make a big impact.

**2 Ronnie Wingo**
*ATH, 6-3, 220*
Wingo is an outstanding athlete who could play a number of positions. The hard part is finding out which one.

**3 Colby Berna**
*OL, 6-4, 285*
Berna was the state of Arkansas' No. 2-rated prospect behind Darius Winston. He projects inside at guard.

**4 DeQuinta Jones**
*DT, 6-4, 305*
Jones was a steal from the state of Louisiana. He's an active presence at defensive tackle.

**5 Anthony Leon**
*DB, 6-4, 230*
Leon is a junior-college transfer who will get to make an immediate impact at safety.

Even with his status as an offensive mastermind secure, one could forgive Arkansas coach Bobby Petrino if he was consumed with the state of his offense. Sure, he returns nearly all his running backs and receivers. But Petrino was forced to say goodbye to quarterback Casey Dick, the second-leading passer in the Southeastern Conference in 2008.

What? Petrino's not worried?

Say hello to Ryan Mallett.

The quarterback was the first major recruit Petrino lured to Fayetteville. And he did so after Mallett played a season for Michigan.

Michigan's loss was Arkansas' much-anticipated gain.

"He's capable of making a lot of throws we couldn't make before, and that gives us a chance," Hogs offensive coordinator Paul Petrino says.

Mallett completed 61 passes for 892 yards with seven touchdowns and five interceptions filling in for injured Michigan starter Chad Henne in 2007. He sat out 2008 because of NCAA transfer rules.

In the spring game, Mallett completed 15 passes for 233 yards with two touchdowns and one interception, an outing he termed as "all right."

It's clear the former Wolverine is talented. What's unclear is whether he's the best signal-caller for the Razorbacks this fall. It would be an upset if Mallett didn't start, but a hard charge by redshirt freshman Tyler Wilson (301 passing yards, 2 INTs, 2 TDs in the spring game) will make it interesting.

His own performance even had Wilson saying, "The competition will go on into the summer."

Whoever it is will have weapons.

Eight starters return from an offense that ranked second in the SEC in passing (259.6 yards per game) and fourth in total offense (379.1) in '08. The Hogs have most of their rushing yards back, which came from second-team All-SEC back Michael Smith (1,072 yards, 5.2 yards per carry, 8 TDs).

They also return most of their receiving yards, the majority of which came from first-team All-SEC tight end D.J. Williams (61 catches, 723 yards, 3 TDs).

Defense is a different situation. The Hogs return nine starters, but that's good news and bad news.

Experienced, yes. But in '08, the defense was last in the SEC in total defense (375.2 yards per game) and scoring defense (31.2 points per game).

"Last year, I felt like it was like pulling teeth to get them to hit and concentrate on the physical part," Paul Petrino says. "We're not physical enough, we don't tackle well enough and we don't get all 11 guys to the football on every play. But we are getting better."

Led by All-SEC tackle Malcolm Sheppard, the defense is looking to improve. With talented youngsters like Freshman All-America linebacker Jerry Franklin, (87 tackles) the defense can make strides.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***RYAN MALLETT, QB***

The SEC will see what the Big Ten already knows—that Ryan Mallett, a Michigan transfer, has enough talent to abuse any opposing defense.

# 6 MISSISSIPPI STATE BULLDOGS

With a new coach, new direction and new goals, the plan was to generate some new enthusiasm. So first-year Mississippi State coach Dan Mullen took his message to all corners of his new state.

He spoke with more than 20 student groups on campus. He spoke at eight different alumni meetings across the South. He planned 16 additional cities to visit after the Maroon-White game.

For a program that had just one winning season since 2000, drew just 5,000 fans for the 2008 spring game and hired Mullen from Urban Meyer's staff to restore fan-base confidence, good publicity was needed.

What was the reward for the former Florida offensive coordinator?

A record 31,606 people showed up to the spring game on April 18, evidence that fans share his excitement.

That wasn't the only aspect of rebuilding in which Mullen took pride.

"I'm pleased that we're coming out of the spring with a foundation of the offense, a foundation of the defense and special teams," Mullen says, "and more importantly, a foundation of what we expect effort-wise from our guys."

One hurdle for Mullen, who takes over an offense that was ranked 113th nationally last season, is that Gators quarterback Tim Tebow is not in Starkville. Instead, the returning starter is former junior-college transfer Tyson Lee, who completed 58.8 percent of his passes with five interceptions for only 138.1 yards per game in '08. Competing with him are athletic sophomore Chris Relf and blue-chip signee Tyler Russell, who visited the campus in the spring to learn the system.

The trio has a ways to go in utilizing Mullen's fast-paced, spread-based attack with confidence.

"It's just getting a feel for the offense," Lee says.

An offensive line led by talented left tackle Derek Sherrod must protect long enough for the signal-callers to get the ball to a depth-starved group of receivers that includes veteran Brandon McRae (518 receiving yards) and raw sprinter O'Neal Wilder. Clearly, playmaking help is wanted.

Mississippi State does have a security blanket in bruising senior running back Anthony Dixon (869 rushing yards, 7 TDs). A starter since his freshman year, the 6-1, 235-pounder has lost weight and increased his conditioning.

The defense is the backbone, as All-SEC linebacker Jamar Chaney, who had 89 tackles in 2007, returns after missing last season with a broken ankle to lead a corps that also includes K.J. Wright (72 tackles). They'll play behind an athletic, physical defensive line that features one of the surprises of the spring in junior-college transfer Pernell McPhee.

In the secondary, the Bulldogs return key performers from a unit that was 17th nationally against the pass (176.6 yards per game), though safety Derek Pegues is gone.

ANTHONY DIXON » RB

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***PERNELL McPHEE, DT***

McPhee, a transfer from Itawamba (Miss.) Community College, is already turning heads on the defensive line with his physical play and maturity.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Jackson State | |
| S.12 | @AUBURN | 2-3 |
| S.19 | @VANDERBILT | 17-14 |
| S.26 | LSU | 24-34 |
| O.3 | Georgia Tech | 7-38 |
| O.10 | Houston | |
| O.17 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE | 31-22 |
| O.24 | Florida | |
| O.31 | @KENTUCKY | 13-14 |
| N.14 | Alabama | 7-32 |
| N.21 | @ARKANSAS* | 31-28 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.28 Ole Miss** 0-45

Last year's embarrassing loss to the Rebels helped pave the way for Dan Mullen to be hired, and he gets to make it right when Ole Miss visits Starkville for the Egg Bowl.

** at Little Rock, AR*

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

» Former Florida offensive coordinator Dan Mullen brings originality to the Bulldogs' offense.

» Who will be the QB: Tyson Lee or blue-chip prospect Tyler Russell?

» Sylvester Croom left enough talent and grit on defense to win a few.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 4-8
**SEC:** 2-6

**Coach:** Dan Mullen, 1st year
**Offensive coordinator:** Les Koenning (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:** Carl Torbush (1st year)

**Stadium:** Davis Wade Stadium (55,082)
**Tickets:** 888-GO-DAWGS
**Site:** Starkville, Miss.
**Official athletic Web site:** www.mstateathletics.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 16 | Tyson Lee (5-10, 200, Sr.) |
| FB | 33 | Patrick Hanrahan (5-11, 225, Jr.) |
| RB | 24 | Anthony Dixon (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| LOT | 79 | Derek Sherrod (6-6, 310, Jr.) |
| LOG | 67 | Tobias Smith (6-3, 310, Fr.) |
| C | 70 | JC Brignone (6-1, 300, Jr.) |
| ROG | 55 | Quentin Saulsberry (6-2, 300, So.) |
| ROT | 62 | Addison Lawrence (6-4, 295, So.) |
| TE | 88 | Kendrick Cook (6-1, 250, So.) |
| WR | 81 | O'Neal Wilder (6-5, 210, Fr.) |
| WR | 6 | Brandon McRae (6-4, 205, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 93 | Brandon Cooper (6-1, 255, Jr.) |
| LDT | 92 | Charles Burns (6-3, 275, Sr.) |
| RDT | 90 | Pernell McPhee (6-3, 275, Jr.) |
| RDE | 99 | Sean Ferguson (6-3, 245, So.) |
| SLB | 34 | K.J. Wright (6-4, 245, Jr.) |
| MLB | 22 | Jamar Chaney (6-1, 245, Sr.) |
| WLB | 50 | Chris White (6-2, 245, Jr.) |
| LCB | 26 | Damein Anderson (5-11, 195, So.) |
| RCB | 18 | Marcus Washington (5-10, 190, Sr.) |
| FS | 4 | Charles Mitchell (5-11, 205, So.) |
| SS | 42 | Zach Smith (5-11, 200, Jr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 37 | Sean Brauchle (5-10, 180, Jr.) |
| P | 38 | Heath Hutchens (6-1, 215, Jr.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Pernell McPhee**
*DT, 6-3, 275*
McPhee was a sought-after junior-college transfer who was regarded as one of the top defensive prospects in the nation.

**2 — Fletcher Cox**
*DE, 6-4, 240*
Cox is a speedy and athletic defensive end off the edge that plays with a nice motor.

**3 — Chad Bumphis**
*WR, 5-11, 193*
The Bulldogs desperately need playmakers for Dan Mullen's offense. This guy is a great start.

**4 — Tyler Russell**
*QB, 6-4, 200*
Don't be surprised if Russell becomes the starting quarterback by the middle of the season. He's a good decision-maker.

**5 — Josh Boyd**
*DT, 6-3, 275*
Boyd is a nice athlete at his size and position. He just needs to bulk up and learn to play with better technique..

SHELBY DANIEL / ICON SMI

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## ALL-WAC

### OFFENSE

| | |
|---|---|
| QB | Kellen Moore, So., Boise State |
| RB | Daniel Porter, Sr., Louisiana Tech |
| RB | Vai Taua, Jr., Nevada |
| OL | John Estes, Sr., Hawaii |
| OL | Andrew Jackson, Jr., Fresno State |
| OL | Rob McGill, Jr., Louisiana Tech |
| OL | Alonzo Durham, Sr., Nevada |
| OL | Thomas Byrd, So., Boise State |
| TE | Virgil Green, Jr., Nevada |
| WR | Austin Pettis, Jr., Boise State |
| WR | Kevin Jurovich, Sr., San Jose State |

### DEFENSE

| | |
|---|---|
| DL | Ryan Winterswyk, Jr., Boise State |
| DL | Kevin Basped, Jr., Nevada |
| DL | Carl Ihenacho, Sr., San Jose State |
| DL | D'Anthony Smith, Sr., Louisiana Tech |
| LB | Ben Jacobs, Jr., Fresno State |
| LB | Justin Cole, Sr., San Jose State |
| LB | Paul Igboeli, Sr., Utah State |
| DB | Kyle Wilson, Sr., Boise State |
| DB | Duke Ihenacho, Jr., San Jose State |
| DB | Antonio Baker, Sr., Louisiana Tech |
| DB | Jeron Johnson, Jr., Boise State |

### SPECIALISTS

| | |
|---|---|
| K | Kevin Goessling, So., Fresno State |
| P | Brad Langley, Jr., Nevada |

## FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

**1** Boise State will go undefeated in the regular season for the second year in a row, putting a WAC team in a Bowl Championship Series game for the third time in four seasons.

**2** Coach Gary Andersen will bring hope—and victories—to Utah State. The Aggies may not become bowl-eligible in 2009, but they will win five games for the first time since 2000.

**3** Nevada quarterback Colin Kaepernick will become the third player in NCAA history to throw for 3,000 yards and rush for 1,000 in the same season.

**4** Fresno State's search for a quarterback will carry into the season, although a deep group of running backs and an improved defense will carry the Bulldogs to their 10th bowl game in 11 years.

# If conference king Boise State stumbles, WAC title race will ignite

**By Laurence Miedema,** *San Jose Mercury News*

The various teams in the Western Athletic Conference have worked hard to narrow the gap between the top and bottom of the league. However, Boise State will likely again run far ahead of the pack.

The Broncos finished No. 11 in the final *Associated Press* poll for 2008. With experience returning everywhere and sophomore quarterback Kellen Moore only getting better, Boise State figures to make another run at an undefeated regular season and its second BCS bowl appearance in four years.

That would be great for the credibility of the conference, although the bigger story might be the successful strides of the expanding second tier of the WAC.

Last season, five of six bowl-eligible teams made postseason appearances, joining a list of 13 other WAC squads that have also graced a bowl game in the last five years.

If Boise State stumbles, the conference race could get interesting.

Nevada, Louisiana Tech, Fresno State and San Jose State all have at least one dominant phase of the game that sets them apart, although not much separates that group from Hawaii and Utah State. Only Idaho and New Mexico State are in rebuilding mode.

With high-profile players and tough nonconference schedules, the WAC will have the opportunity to raise its profile.

Nevada and Boise State have offenses that rank among the most explosive in the nation, and both have high-profile quarterbacks. Nevada's Colin Kaepernick is one of five players to pass for 2,000 yards and rush for 1,000 in the same season.

In nonconference play, Boise State opens with Oregon. Nevada's first game is at Notre Dame and it has a home game against Missouri. Fresno State, as usual, has a demanding road slate that includes visits to Wisconsin, Cincinnati and Illinois. Louisiana Tech plays at Auburn and LSU.

Ultimately, the road to the WAC title will go through Boise again, but it'll be a wild ride.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Jeremy Crabtree, *Rivals.com*

**1. BOISE STATE** The Broncos once again signed one of the best classes from a non-BCS conference. Boise State did well in its own back yard, as well as in California.

**2. LOUISIANA TECH** The Bulldogs made major strides with in-state players, signing nine three-star prospects and scoring players who had big-time offers.

**3. FRESNO STATE** The Bulldogs always do a great job of developing talent. Fresno State continues to recruit northern California better than anybody else.

**4. SAN JOSE STATE** The Spartans landed one four-star and two three-star recruits this year, which was a step forward. They also did a nice job finding players who could make an immediate impact.

**5. HAWAII** Once again, this class is loaded with great players from their own back yard.

**6. NEW MEXICO STATE** It was a transition season for New Mexico State. With an aggressive new staff aboard, don't expect the Aggies to remain near the bottom of the rankings.

**7. IDAHO** The Vandals landed two three-star players and did a nice job recruiting talent in California.

**8. UTAH STATE** A new staff brings hope to Utah State, and with great local ties, expect the Aggies to climb the charts. Also look for more success in California.

**9. NEVADA** Nevada doesn't win too many recruiting championships, but the Wolf Pack continue to find players they can refine and develop for their units.

## ASCENDING

**LOUISIANA TECH** The Bulldogs ended last season's breakthrough campaign by winning six of their final eight games, including the Independence Bowl. If the offense continues to improve, Louisiana Tech could challenge Boise State for the WAC title.

## DESCENDING

**SAN JOSE STATE** The Spartans are light-years ahead of where they were when Dick Tomey arrived five years ago, but a near-impossible nonconference schedule—featuring trips to USC and Stanford—will undercut another run at bowl eligibility.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

## WAC

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

1. Boise State
2. Nevada
3. Louisiana Tech
4. Fresno State
5. Hawaii
6. San Jose State
7. Utah State
8. Idaho
9. New Mexico State

## RATING THE PLAYERS

**Fastest Receiver**
Titus Young, Boise State

**Best Hands**
Kevin Jurovich, WR, San Jose State

**Best Passing QB**
Kellen Moore, Boise State

**Best Running QB**
Colin Kaepernick, Nevada

**Most Elusive RB**
Lonyae Miller, Fresno State

**Best Instincts**
Phillip Livas, WR/KR, Louisiana Tech

**Best Athlete**
Colin Kaepernick, QB, Nevada

**Best Under Pressure**
Kellen Moore, QB, Boise State

**Top NFL Prospect**
Kyle Wilson, CB/PR, Boise State

**Top Impact Freshman**
L.J. Washington, WR, Nevada

**Hardest Hitter**
Duke Ihenacho, S, San Jose State

**Biggest Underachiever**
Fresno State

**Best Home-Field Advantage**
Boise State

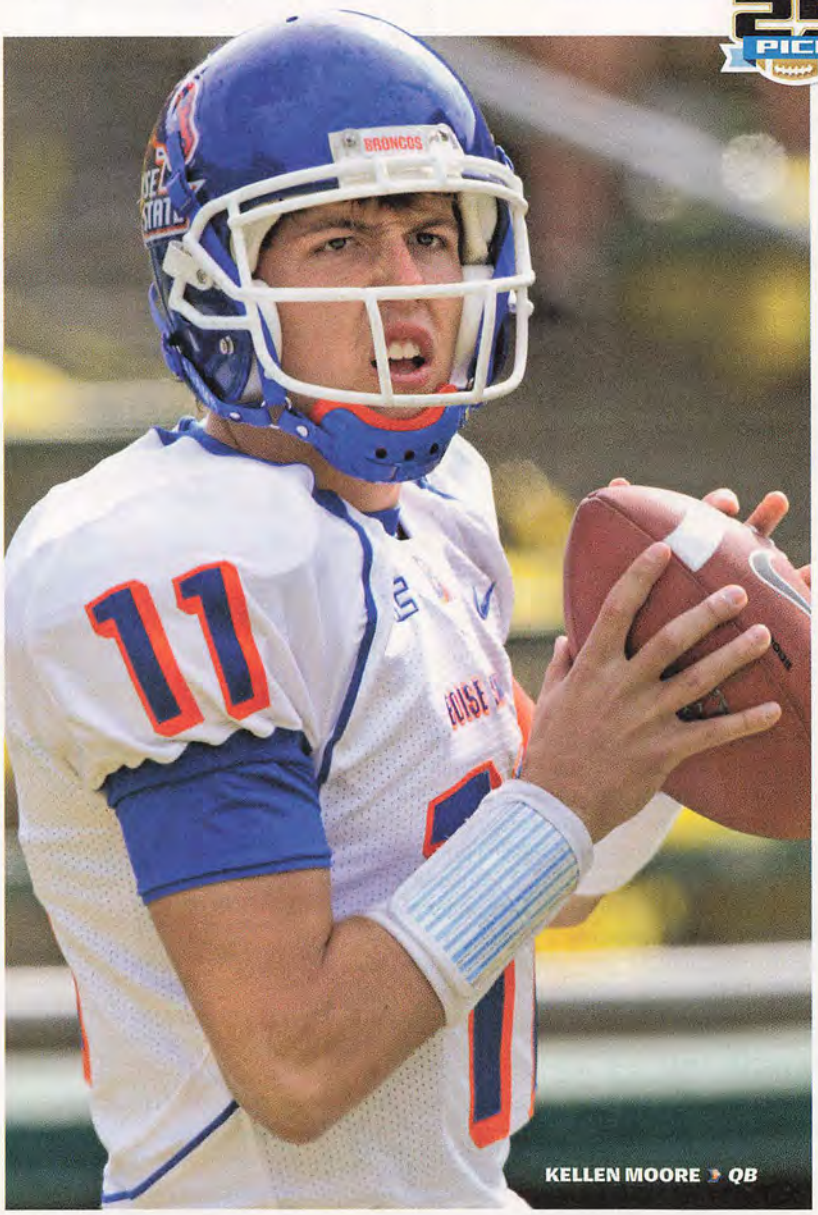
**Best Fans**
Boise State

**Best Mascot**
The Warrior, Hawaii

**Best Stadium**
Bronco Stadium, Boise State

WAC PRESEASON RANK

# 1 BOISE STATE BRONCOS



KELLEN MOORE » QB

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| S.3 | Oregon | 37-32 |
| Big game? Only if the Broncos want another undefeated season, which hinges on beating the Ducks for the second year in a row. | | |
| S.12 | Miami (OH) | |
| S.18 | @FRESNO STATE | 61-10 |
| S.26 | @BOWLING GREEN | 20-7 |
| O.3 | UC Davis | |
| O.14 | @TULSA | |
| O.24 | @HAWAII | 27-7 |
| O.31 | San Jose State | 33-16 |
| N.6 | @LOUISIANA TECH | 38-3 |
| N.14 | Idaho | 45-10 |
| N.20 | @UTAH STATE | 49-14 |
| N.27 | Nevada | 41-34 |
| D.5 | New Mexico State | 49-0 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** » ORANGE BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE » A-**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Young, but experienced at every position.
- Quarterback Kellen Moore could be special.

Nobody in the Western Athletic Conference can rebuild like Boise State.

The Broncos provided a reminder of that last fall when they faced one of the program's most significant overhauls since joining the league in 2001. Things couldn't have worked out much better.

Despite turning to youngsters at many key positions, including freshman quarterback Kellen Moore, Boise State breezed through the regular season and fell just two points from its second perfect campaign in three years.

And that was just the start for this group.

Coming off a 12-1 season and No. 11 ranking in the final *Associated Press* poll, the roster is loaded with at least one player with starting experience at every position. Not only do they head into the fall as the team to beat in the WAC, but all the pieces appear in place to crash the BCS for the second time in four years.

"Expectations are high," said Moore after the Broncos completed spring camp. "But that's what you expect here. That's the reason a lot of us come here."

Fourth-year coach Chris Petersen won't let the squad get ahead of itself. His mantra coming into the season is: "This is a new team."

That might be true, although the Broncos appear headed for familiar territory. Boise State has won at least 10 games eight times in the past decade and is 35-4 under Petersen.

The program has thrived because it doesn't take anything for granted. Last year's dominating run was fueled by the Broncos' drive to win the WAC title. But the Broncos' lasting memory of 2008 was a 17-16 loss to TCU in the Poinsettia Bowl.

"I think the main thing is that we always play with that edge," Petersen says, "with something to prove."

JAY DROWNS

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

Kellen Moore

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 157.12 | 405-281-10 | 69.4 | 3486 | 25 | 268.2 |

**RUSHING**

| | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jeremy Avery | 13 | 111 | 614 | 5.5 | 4 | 47.2 |

**RECEIVING**

| | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austin Pettis | 13 | 49 | 567 | 11.6 | 9 | 43.6 |

### DEFENSE

**TACKLES**

| | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jeron Johnson | 13 | 72 | 26 | 98 |

**SACKS**

| | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ryan Winterswyk | 12 | 4.5 | 33 |

**INTERCEPTIONS**

| | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kyle Wilson | 5 | 5 | 1.0 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 12-1
**WAC:** 8-0
*(lost to TCU in the Poinsettia Bowl, 17-16)*

**Coach:** Chris Petersen
4th year (35-4)
**Career record:** 35-4
**Offensive coordinator:**
Bryan Harsin (4th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Justin Wilcox (4th year)

**Stadium:** Bronco Stadium (30,000)
**Tickets:** 208-426-4737
**Site:** Boise, Idaho
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.broncosports.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 11 | Kellen Moore (6-0, 187, So.) |
| | 7 | Mike Coughlin (6-5, 213, Jr.) |
| FB | 40 | Richie Brockel (6-2, 248, Sr.) |
| | 47 | Dan Paul (6-0, 229, So.) |
| RB | 27 | Jeremy Avery (5-9, 168, Jr.) |
| | 6 | D.J. Harper (5-9, 192, Jr.) |
| LOT | 72 | Matt Slater (6-6, 281, Jr.) |
| | 59 | Will Lawrence (6-2, 288, Jr.) |
| LOG | 71 | Cory Yriarte (6-1, 285, So.) |
| | 57 | Garrett Pendergast (6-4, 288, So.) |
| C | 66 | Thomas Byrd (5-11, 275, So.) |
| | 73 | Nate Potter (6-6, 272, So.) |
| ROG | 62 | Kevin Sapien (6-4, 274, Jr.) |
| | 71 | Cory Yriarte (6-1, 285, So.) |
| ROT | 81 | Chris Potter (5-11, 170, Fr.) |
| | 70 | Zach Waller (6-5, 277, So.) |
| TE | 85 | Tommy Gallarda (6-5, 249, So.) |
| | 80 | Kyle Efaw (6-4, 228, So.) |
| WR | 87 | Austin Pettis (6-3, 202, Jr.) |
| | 89 | Tyler Shoemaker (6-1, 214, So.) |
| WR | 4 | Titus Young (5-11, 167, Jr.) |
| | 20 | Mitch Burroughs (5-9, 190, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 98 | Ryan Winterswyk (6-4, 258, Jr.) |
| | 96 | Jarrell Root (6-3, 254, So.) |
| LDT | 90 | Billy Winn (6-4, 282, So.) |
| | 50 | JP Nisby (6-1, 295, So.) |
| RDT | 97 | Chase Baker (6-1, 284, So.) |
| | 65 | Michael Atkinson (6-0, 320, r-So.) |
| RDE | 92 | Shea McClellin (6-3, 255, So.) |
| | 94 | Byron Hout (6-1, 225, So.) |
| SLB | 36 | Aaron Tevis (6-3, 214, So.) |
| | 48 | JC Percy (6-0, 210, Fr.) |
| MLB | 52 | Derrell Acrey (6-1, 233, Jr.) |
| | 45 | Daron Mackey (6-0, 230, Jr.) |
| WLB | 25 | Hunter White (5-11, 211, So.) |
| | 47 | Dan Paul (6-0, 229, So.) |
| LCB | 1 | Kyle Wilson (5-10, 185, Sr.) |
| | 14 | Garcia Day (6-1, 199, Sr.) |
| RCB | 13 | Brandyn Thompson (5-10, 180, Jr.) |
| | 21 | Jamar Taylor (6-0, 185, So.) |
| FS | 5 | Jason Robinson (5-11, 200, Jr.) |
| | 16 | Cedric Febis (6-3, 192, So.) |
| SS | 23 | Jeron Johnson (5-11, 191, Jr.) |
| | 8 | George Iloka (6-3, 202, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 35 | Kyle Brotzman (5-10, 179, Jr.) |
| P | 35 | Kyle Brotzman (5-10, 179, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | BSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 489 | 164 |
| Points Per Game | 37.6 | 12.6 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 285 | 228 |
| Rushing | 101 | 92 |
| Passing | 163 | 113 |
| Penalty | 21 | 23 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1980 | 1534 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2253 | 1903 |
| Yards lost rushing | 273 | 369 |
| Rushing Attempts | 449 | 476 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.4 | 3.2 |
| Average Per Game | 152.3 | 118.0 |
| TDs Rushing | 28 | 9 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 3751 | 2472 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 438-298-11 | 449-234-22 |
| Average Per Pass | 8.6 | 5.5 |
| Average Per Catch | 12.6 | 10.6 |
| Average Per Game | 288.5 | 190.2 |
| TDs Passing | 30 | 8 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5731 | 4006 |
| Total Plays | 887 | 925 |
| Average Per Play | 6.5 | 4.3 |
| Average Per Game | 440.8 | 308.2 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 27-591 | 76-1468 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 44-539 | 18-95 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 22-178 | 11-222 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | BSU | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 21.9 | 19.3 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 12.2 | 5.3 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 8.1 | 20.2 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 27-15 | 20-11 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 93-839 | 84-745 |
| Average Per Game | 64.5 | 57.3 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 47-2095 | 75-2979 |
| Average Per Punt | 44.6 | 39.7 |
| Net punt average | 39.6 | 31.5 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 28:48 | 31:12 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 70/162 | 68/209 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 43% | 33% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 9/13 | 10/36 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 69% | 28% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 34-248 | 13-102 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 7 |
| TDS SCORED | 63 | 21 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 17-26 | 7-13 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 60-61 | 17-19 |
| ATTENDANCE | 193649 | 175862 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/32275 | 6/29310 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/34628 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boise State | 88 | 182 | 138 | 81 | 489 |
| Opponent | 26 | 50 | 45 | 43 | 164 |

The Broncos ache for another shot at perfection, and they'll do it with a young—but experienced—squad. Boise State had 76 freshmen or sophomores among the 104 players on its 2008 bowl roster and enters the fall with just five seniors. All-America cornerback Kyle Wilson, who considered entering the NFL draft before returning, might be the only senior starter.

Despite the experience on the roster, the squad has to fill some big shoes.

The most glaring absence is running back Ian Johnson, who had been the program's most recognizable player since his doing his part in the thrilling finish of the 2006 Fiesta Bowl.

But by the end of last season, the spotlight had already shifted toward Moore, who completed a school-record 69.4 percent of his passes for 3,486 yards. He will be asked to step up this year. Moore was efficient in '08, but didn't stretch the field, despite the arm and the receivers to do so.

With Johnson gone, juniors Jeremy Avery and D.J. Harper will get a chance to shine after showing tremendous promise in complementary roles the past two seasons.

Avery, the MVP of the Hawaii Bowl in 2007, has rushed for 1,286 yards on 214 career carries. Harper rushed for 265 yards last season as the Broncos' No. 3 tailback.

The biggest mystery heading into the fall is the offensive line, although it's not from a lack of candidates. The Broncos have 16 players (six with starting experience) vying for playing time. Because of injuries, the Broncos used 11 starting combinations last season, and the shuffling hasn't stopped. Sophomore center Thomas Byrd appeared to be the only candidate close to locking down a starting spot in the spring.

Returning mostly intact is the Broncos' defensive unit, which allowed just 17 touchdowns last season.

The line is anchored by junior end Ryan Winterswyk, whose 11.5 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks led the team last year. The outside linebacker spots are open, as junior Derrell Acrey returns to claim the middle.

Most importantly, the secondary remains almost the same, anchored by Wilson and junior cornerback Brandyn Thompson. The duo combined for nine interceptions and 16 pass breakups in 2008.

The Broncos will once again boast one of the best special teams units in the conference.

Junior kicker Kyle Brotzman, who doubles as the punter, has yet to miss an extra-point try (106 in a row) and has made 33 of 44 field-goal attempts in his career.

### RECRUITING REPORT

Boise State always targets two things first—speed and athleticism. As it turns out, this class has plenty of both. The top three signees in the class are skill position players who were highly recruited by top programs in running back **Malcolm Johnson**, athlete **Ebenezer Makinde** and quarterback **Joe Southwick.** Southwick has all the tools to be the next great Boise State quarterback, and many higher-level programs might wonder how he got away years down the road. The class is heavy on defensive linemen and linebackers.
*—Jeremy Crabtree,* Rivals.com

### THE NEXT BIG THING *MICHAEL ATKINSON, DT*

The 6-0, 320-pound tackle will be a huge addition to the middle of the Broncos' defensive front after redshirting last fall. He also played fullback in high school, rushing for 725 yards his senior year.

# 2 NEVADA WOLF PACK

Louisiana Tech did it last year, but in 2009 it's Nevada's turn to challenge Boise State as the team to beat in the Western Athletic Conference.

Similar to Hawaii, which toppled the Broncos two years ago, Nevada has a dynamic offense and just enough defense to get the job done. But it'll be a tough road, and one that includes a visit to the blue turf in Idaho.

It's not like Nevada hasn't been a factor in the WAC in recent years. The Wolf Pack set a school record with their fourth consecutive bowl appearance last fall—although it required a big finish to keep that streak alive. After coach Chris Ault said he'd turn down a bowl berth if Nevada finished the regular season with a 6-6 record, the Wolf Pack had to win three of its final four regular-season games, including a 35-31 thriller over Louisiana Tech in the finale, to meet the mandate.

Much of the optimism surrounding the Wolf Pack reflects the return of 15 starters, including the bulk of an offense that averaged 508.5 yards per game and scored more touchdowns than the Broncos (64 to 58) last year.

Nevada's success will fall to quarterback Colin Kaepernick and running back Vai Taua.

Kaepernick, the reigning WAC Offensive Player of the Year, oversees an offense that ranked third in the nation in rushing and fifth in total offense a year ago.

The junior burst onto the scene in 2007 when he replaced injured Nick Graziano at midseason, but only emerged as a bona fide star last fall. He is one of five players in NCAA history to pass for 2,000 yards and rush for 1,000 in a single season.

The Wolf Pack have produced the WAC's leading rusher each of the past two seasons, and both will be back this fall.

Taua stepped in when Luke Lippincott, the WAC rushing champ in '07, went down with a knee injury, and had a better year than his predecessor, rushing for 1,521 yards and 15 touchdowns last season.

Taua should get the bulk of the carries this fall. But Lippincott, who was granted a sixth year of eligibility, appears healthy enough to contribute.

Although the running game will be solid, Nevada must rebuild its receiving corps, as its top two wideouts are gone. Junior Chris Wellington showed flashes last fall and again in the spring. Junior-college transfers Maurice Patterson, Malcolm Shepherd and grayshirt freshman L.J. Washington may also see time.

Ultimately, if the Wolf Pack are going to challenge Boise State, there has to be improvement on defense. Nevada ranked last among Football Bowl Subdivision schools in pass defense last year, a shortcoming that was magnified by a nonconference game against Texas Tech. In all, the unit allowed 31 passing touchdowns and a nation-worst 311.6 passing yards per game.

Not surprisingly, all the secondary spots are up for grabs.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***VIRGIL GREEN, TE***

The Wolf Pack need to find a group of receivers for quarterback Colin Kaepernick, and the 6-5 junior is an inviting target.

COLIN KAEPERNICK ▸ QB

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 7-6
**WAC:** 5-3
*(lost to Maryland in the Humanitarian Bowl, 42-35)*

**Coach:** Chris Ault
25 years (198-91-1)
**Career record:** 198-91-1
**Offensive coordinator:**
Chris Klenakis (10th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Nigel Burton (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Mackay Stadium (29,993)
**Tickets:** 775-348-PACK
**Site:** Reno
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.nevadawolfpack.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

| | |
|---|---|
| '04 | 5 |
| '05 | 9 |
| '06 | 8 |
| '07 | 6 |
| '08 | 7 |

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| S.5 | @ Notre Dame | |
| The first-ever meeting against the Irish will provide national exposure and a huge springboard into the season, and a win could make Nevada a BCS-bowl buster. | | |
| S.19 | @COLORADO STATE | |
| S.25 | Missouri | 17-69 |
| O.3 | UNLV | 49-27 |
| O.9 | Louisiana Tech | 35-31 |
| O.17 | @UTAH STATE | 44-17 |
| O.24 | Idaho | 49-14 |
| O.31 | Hawaii | 31-38 |
| N.8 | @SAN JOSE STATE | 41-17 |
| N.14 | Fresno State | 41-28 |
| N.21 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | 45-48 |
| N.27 | @BOISE STATE | 34-41 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL
» NEW MEXICO BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» Nevada has star power at most key positions. They'd grade higher if not for secondary issues.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 10 | Colin Kaepernick (6-6, 215, Jr.) |
| RB | 34 | Vai Taua (5-10, 225, Jr.) |
| LOT | 50 | Mike Gallett (6-6, 295, Jr.) |
| LOG | 62 | John Bender (6-8, 325, Jr.) |
| C | 63 | Ken Ackerman (6-4, 280, Sr.) |
| ROG | 75 | Chris Barker (6-4, 315, Fr.) |
| ROT | 73 | Alonzo Durham (6-4, 285, Sr.) |
| TE | 85 | Virgil Green (6-5, 225, Jr.) |
| WR | 82 | Tray Session (6-3, 175, So.) |
| WR | 14 | Chris Wellington (6-1, 185, Jr.) |
| WR | 81 | Maurice Patterson (6-3, 200, Jr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 55 | Dontay Moch (6-1, 245, Jr.) |
| LDT | 90 | Chris Slack (6-5, 270, Sr.) |
| RDT | 95 | Nate Agaiava (6-2, 285, Sr.) |
| RDE | 99 | Kevin Basped (6-6, 240, Jr.) |
| SLB | 52 | James-Michael Johnson (6-2, 220, So.) |
| MLB | 36 | Mike Bethea (6-3, 245, Jr.) |
| WLB | 33 | Brandon Marshall (6-1, 230, So.) |
| LCB | 45 | Antoine Thompson (6-1, 195, Sr.) |
| RCB | 32 | Isaiah Frey (6-0, 190, So.) |
| FS | 49 | Jonathon Amaya (6-2, 190, Sr.) |
| SS | 25 | Mo Harvey (6-3, 210, Sr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 5 | Ricky Drake (6-1, 175, Jr.) |
| P | 48 | Brad Langley (6-0, 200, Jr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** **Josh Banks**
*DE, 6-4, 230*
Banks is a playmaking defensive end who could help immediately.

**2** **Maurice Patterson**
*WR, 6-3, 200*
A physical, strong receiver with solid speed, he should help the Wolf Pack offense immediately.

**3** **Cory Smith**
*CB, 6-1, 175*
Nevada beat Oregon State for this three-star prospect's signature.

**4** **David Fales**
*QB, 6-2, 190*
Fales is the type of underrated quarterback who flourishes in Nevada's system.

**5** **Sam Foster**
*LB, 6-4, 235*
He has the build of a defensive end but the instincts of a linebacker.

PATRICK FALLON / CAL SPORT MEDIA

# LOUISIANA TECH BULLDOGS 3

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @AUBURN | |
| S.12 | @NAVY | |
| S.19 | Nicholls State | |
| S.30 | Hawaii | 14-24 |
| O.9 | @NEVADA | 31-35 |
| O.17 | New Mexico State | 35-31 |
| O.24 | @UTAH STATE | 45-38 |
| O.31 | @IDAHO | 46-14 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| N.6 | Boise State | 3-38 |
| The biggest college game ever in Ruston, La., could be for the WAC title. | | |
| N.14 | @LSU | |
| N.21 | @FRESNO STATE | 38-35 |
| D.5 | San Jose State | 21-0 |

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE B

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

» Program has made strides but still hasn't peaked.

» A stout defense is only getting better.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 11 | Ross Jenkins (6-3, 212, Jr.) |
| FB | 43 | Dustin Mitchell (6-4, 252, Sr.) |
| RB | 20 | Daniel Porter (5-9, 190, Sr.) |
| LOT | 74 | Rob McGill (6-6, 305, Jr.) |
| LOG | 62 | Ben Harris (6-4, 295, Sr.) |
| C | 60 | Lon Roberts (6-3, 277, Jr.) |
| ROG | 67 | Jared Miles (6-3, 324, Jr.) |
| ROT | 76 | Cudahy Harmon (6-6, 327, Jr.) |
| TE | 49 | Dennis Morris (6-2, 266, Sr.) |
| WR | 6 | Phillip Livas (5-8, 175, Jr.) |
| WR | 80 | Houston Tuminello (6-0, 173, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 91 | Matt Broha (6-4, 228, So.) |
| LDT | 90 | Mason Hitt (6-1, 268, Jr.) |
| RDT | 5 | D'Anthony Smith (6-2, 300, Sr.) |
| RDE | 93 | Christian Lacey (6-1, 230, So.) |
| SLB | 36 | Brian White (6-1, 228, Sr.) |
| MLB | 44 | Adrien Cole (5-11, 245, So.) |
| WLB | 48 | Dusty Rust (6-3, 215, So.) |
| LCB | 28 | Terry Carter (5-10, 183, So.) |
| RCB | 35 | Olajuwon Paige (5-9, 180, Jr.) |
| FS | 34 | Antonio Baker (5-11, 200, Sr.) |
| SS | 25 | Deon Young (5-11, 197, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PK | 10 | John Hinton (5-9, 170, Fr.) |
| P | 14 | Cade Glasgow (6-0, 180, Fr.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5
**WAC:** 5-3
*(beat Northern Illinois in the Independence Bowl, 17-10)*

**Coach:** Derek Dooley
3rd year (13-12)
**Career record:** 13-12
**Offensive coordinator:**
Frank Scelfo (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Tommy Spangler (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Joe Aillet Stadium (30,600)
**Tickets:** 318-257-3631
**Site:** Ruston
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.latechsports.com

FRANK DIBRANGO

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** — **Tyrone Duplessis** *RB, 5-6, 181* Duplessis might be tiny, but he's really big on talent and was a great in-state steal.

**2** — **Rufus Porter** *LB, 6-0, 200* The underrated Porter was one of the best linebacker prospects in the Southeast.

**3** — **Kendrick James** *LB, 6-0, 227* James is a true inside linebacker who was one of New Orleans' top prospects as a senior.

**4** — **Chad Boyd** *CB, 5-10, 188* Boyd is another in-state recruiting gem for Tech. He was recruited heavily by SEC programs.

**5** — **Quinn Giles** *ATH, 5-10, 185* Giles is a standout athlete who could project at a number of positions in college.

Louisiana Tech was the Western Athletic Conference's biggest success story in 2008, appearing in the school's third bowl game in 20 years. This fall, the team returns enough talent (17 starters) to make a run at Boise State for the conference title and another postseason berth.

The offense was kicked into high gear when Ross Jenkins took over as the starting quarterback a little more than a month into the 2008 season. Jenkins, who completed 92 passes and didn't throw a touchdown to a wide receiver until the 11th game, wasn't the second coming of Bulldog Hall-of-Famer Terry Bradshaw, but he went 6-2 as a starter and proved to be a steady game manager. Also, Jenkins didn't throw an interception in the Bulldogs' final seven games of last season.

Not surprisingly, the offense became more successful with Jenkins, averaging 31.2 points per game in the last six matchups.

Most of the pressure will be on senior running back Daniel Porter, who rushed for 1,164 yards and was the second-best runner in the WAC a year ago. But the Bulldogs need to replace Patrick Jackson (653 yards, 8 TDs), who provided a complement to Porter in '08.

The Bulldogs' breakout star last season was receiver and kick-return man Phillip Livas, who was a threat every time he touched the ball. The 5-8, 175 pound dynamo led the WAC in all-purpose yards with 2,015.

And that performance could have been the tip of the iceberg. It turns out that Livas played last season with a torn meniscus. He had knee surgery over the winter and didn't participate in spring drills but is expected to be at full speed for the start of fall.

The Bulldogs' offensive push coincided with major improvements on defense. Louisiana Tech finished third in the WAC in scoring defense (23.7 ppg) and fourth in total defense last season.

The line returns intact, led by tackle D'Anthony Smith and end Matt Broha.

Ranked 13th nationally against the run last year, the Bulldogs' run defense is solid, but they need to shore things up against the pass. The unit was among the worst in the nation in pass defense (113th), allowing 272.7 yards per game.

All-conference safety Antonio Baker is back, but the Bulldogs need to find two new cornerbacks. The secondary also could see improvement with a better pass rush, which produced 27 sacks last year.

Since the Bulldogs start the season against nonconference teams in Auburn, Navy and Nicholls State, they'll have time to make adjustments before conference action.

Overall, the Bulldogs' confidence has never been higher. After a 3-4 start, they put it all together beginning with a program-altering 38-35 victory over Fresno State.

Louisiana Tech should carry last year's momentum into the fall, ready to make a big statement by the time Boise State comes to Ruston.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***PHILLIP LIVAS, WR***

One of the most versatile offensive threats in the country, he went unnoticed in '08. That won't happen again.

# 4 FRESNO STATE BULLDOGS

Coach Pat Hill has led the Bulldogs to a bowl game in nine of his last 12 seasons in the San Joaquin Valley, but recently Fresno State hasn't lived up to its potential. For instance, many expected the Bulldogs to crash the BCS party, but they stumbled to 7-6 last season. After a humiliating 61-10 thrashing by Boise State, the campaign ended with a loss to Colorado State in the New Mexico Bowl.

Much of last season's struggles could be attributed to injuries and tough luck, but it didn't look good when Hill interviewed for the Washington job over the winter before bowing out.

The restoration of the Bulldogs' swagger appears within reach if they exceed modest expectations heading into the season.

Most of the pieces from last year are back, especially on offense. However, the Bulldogs have a new offensive coordinator for the fifth time in five years and must break in a new quarterback. Junior Ryan Colburn, sophomores Matt Faulkner and Ebahn Feathers and freshman Derek Carr waged a spirited battle for the spot in the spring that decided nothing.

The receiving corps is deep too, and it's led by Chastin West and Seyi Ajirotutu.

The defense, which was undercut by injuries last season, could challenge Boise State for the conference's top honors. But it will have to do so without longtime defensive coordinator Dan Brown, who lost his fight with brain cancer earlier this year.

The defense returns nine starters, led by linebacker Ben Jacobs and end Chris Carter. But the unit must beef up against the run, as it allowed 210 rushing yards a game last season.

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL
» HUMANITARIAN BOWL

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | UC Davis | |
| S.12 | @WISCONSIN | 10-13 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.19** | **Boise State** | **10-61** |
| The Broncos have always been a thorn in the Bulldogs' side, and as far as conference openers go, it doesn't get much better than this. | | |
| S.26 | @CINCINNATI | |
| 0.10 | @HAWAII | 29-32 (OT) |
| 0.17 | San Jose State | 24-10 |
| 0.24 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | 24-17 |
| 0.31 | Utah State | 30-28 |
| N.7 | @IDAHO | 45-32 |
| N.14 | @NEVADA | 28-41 |
| N.21 | Louisiana Tech | 35-38 |
| D.5 | @ILLINOIS | |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 7-6
**WAC:** 4-4
*(lost to Colorado State in the New Mexico Bowl, 40-35)*

**Coach:** Pat Hill
13th year (92-61)
**Career record:** 92-61
**Offensive coordinator:**
Derek Frazier (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Jeff Grady (1st year)

**Stadium:** Bulldog Stadium (41,031)
**Tickets:** 559-278-DOGS
**Site:** Fresno, Calif.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.gobulldogs.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 15 | Ryan Colburn (6-3, 220, Jr.) |
| FB | 48 | Reynard Camp (5-11, 270, Sr.) |
| RB | 22 | Anthony Harding (6-0, 215, Sr.) |
| LOT | 70 | Bryce Harris (6-6, 280, So.) |
| LOG | 52 | Richard Pacheco (6-2, 285, Sr.) |
| C | 74 | Joe Bernardi (6-2, 280, Jr.) |
| ROG | 69 | Andrew Jackson (6-5, 295, Jr.) |
| ROT | 60 | Kenny Wiggins (6-7, 210, Jr.) |
| TE | 84 | Ryan Skidmore (6-5, 240, So.) |
| WR | 6 | Chastin West (6-1, 215, Sr.) |
| WR | 2 | Seyi Ajirotutu (6-3, 210, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 43 | Chris Carter (6-2, 220, Jr.) |
| LDT | 99 | Mark Roberts (6-2, 300, Jr.) |
| RDT | 50 | Cornell Banks (6-3, 300, Jr.) |
| RDE | 53 | Kyle Knox (6-1, 215, So.) |
| SLB | 30 | Nick Bates (6-2, 210, Jr.) |
| MLB | 54 | Ben Jacobs (6-3, 225, Jr.) |
| WLB | 55 | Nico Herron (6-3, 240, Jr.) |
| LCB | 4 | Damion Owens (5-11, 200, Sr.) |
| RCB | 17 | Desia Dunn (5-9, 175, So.) |
| FS | 20 | Lorne Bell (5-10, 200, Jr.) |
| SS | 3 | Moses Harris (5-11, 205, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 35 | Kevin Goessling (6-0, 195, So.) |
| P | 42 | Robert Malone (6-2, 215, Jr.) |

# 5 HAWAII RAINBOW WARRIORS

Confidence is high at Hawaii, as it appears headed for a rebound after a mediocre 7-7 season last year.

Of course, spirits were up after the Warriors' 2007 campaign in which they had a perfect regular season. But that winter, the program was in turmoil as coach June Jones bolted for SMU, athletic director Herman Frazier was fired and record-breaking quarterback Colt Brennan moved on, along with his entire receiving corps.

Along came coach Greg McMackin, who proved to be the right fit with his enthusiasm for the program's long-term outlook.

After all, he didn't panic during the team's 1-3 start or after a lopsided loss to Notre Dame in the Hawaii Bowl last year.

McMackin wants a balanced program, but he isn't there yet. The Warriors scrambled to find replacements last fall for almost every position on offense.

This year, they'll do the same on defense, as the Warriors are looking to replace a host of starters. The only returning players with experience are linebacker Brashton Satele and end John Fonoti.

The most heated position battles heading into the fall will be in the secondary, as 18 candidates vie for spots, including several junior-college players.

At least the offense is more settled, as quarterback Greg Alexander has secured his position after throwing for 1,895 years and 14 touchdowns in nine games a year ago.

More importantly, he completed 62.9 percent of his passes and had just five interceptions.

While the passing attack should improve with receivers Greg Salas and Malcolm Lane, the big issue will be protecting Alexander. Three new linemen will start for a unit that allowed its signal-caller to be sacked 57 times in '08.

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL
» HAWAII BOWL

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.4 | Central Arkansas | |
| S.12 | @WASHINGTON STATE* | 24-10 |
| S.19 | @UNLV | |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.30** | **@LOUISIANA TECH** | **24-14** |
| A Wednesday night game is the third straight road contest for the Warriors, but it is the most important contest of that stretch. | | |
| 0.10 | Fresno State | 32-29 (OT) |
| 0.17 | @IDAHO | 49-17 |
| 0.24 | Boise State | 7-27 |
| 0.31 | @NEVADA | 38-31 |
| N.7 | Utah State | 14-30 |
| N.14 | New Mexico State | 42-30 |
| N.21 | @SAN JOSE STATE | 17-20 |
| N.28 | Navy | |
| D.5 | Wisconsin | |

** at Seattle, WA*

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 7-7
**WAC:** 5-3
*(lost to Notre Dame in the Hawaii Bowl, 49-21)*

**Coach:** Greg McMackin
2nd year (7-7)
**Career record:** 7-7
**Offensive coordinator:**
Ron Lee (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Cal Lee (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Aloha Stadium (50,000)
**Tickets:** 808-944-2697
**Site:** Honolulu
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.hawaiiathletics.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 12 | Greg Alexander (6-3, 230, Sr.) |
| RB | 4 | Leon Wright-Jackson (6-1, 215, Sr.) |
| LOT | 77 | Aaron Kia (6-5, 290, Sr.) |
| LOG | 64 | Ray Hisatake (6-3, 315, Sr.) |
| C | 55 | John Estes (6-3, 295, Sr.) |
| ROG | 63 | Brysen Ginlack (6-2, 310, Jr.) |
| ROT | 50 | Laupepa Letuli (6-4, 320, Sr.) |
| TE | 20 | Jon Medeiros (5-9, 195, Sr.) |
| WR | 1 | Greg Salas (6-2, 200, Jr.) |
| WR | 21 | Kealoha Pilares (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| WR | 89 | Malcolm Lane (6-1, 180, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 90 | Elliott Purcell (6-3, 250, Jr.) |
| LDT | 49 | Tuika Tufaga (6-2, 285, Sr.) |
| RDT | 95 | Vaughn Meatoga (6-2, 305, So.) |
| RDE | 58 | John Fonoti (6-2, 255, Sr.) |
| SLB | 53 | Blaze Soares (6-1, 235, Sr.) |
| MLB | 13 | Brashton Satele (6-1, 255, Sr.) |
| WLB | 59 | R.J. Kiesel-Kauhane (5-11, 225, Sr.) |
| LCB | 29 | Chris Black (5-10, 175, Sr.) |
| RCB | 26 | Jeramy Bryant (5-10, 170, Sr.) |
| FS | 31 | Spencer Smith (5-11, 200, Jr.) |
| SS | 43 | Mana Silva (6-1, 220, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 98 | Brett Symonds (5-10, 145, Fr.) |
| P | 31 | Spencer Smith (5-11, 200, Jr.) |

# SAN JOSE STATE SPARTANS 6

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @USC | |
| S.12 | Utah | |
| S.19 | @STANFORD | 10-23 |
| S.26 | Cal Poly | |
| O.10 | Idaho | 30-24 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**0.17 @FRESNO STATE 10-24**

The Spartans haven't won in the Central Valley since 1987, and this would be a huge momentum boost heading into their match against Boise State.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| O.31 | @BOISE STATE | 16-33 |
| N.8 | Nevada | 17-41 |
| N.14 | @UTAH STATE | 30-7 |
| N.21 | Hawaii | 20-17 |
| N.28 | New Mexico State | 31-14 |
| D.5 | @LOUISIANA TECH | 0-21 |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 6-6
**WAC:** 4-4

**Coach:** Dick Tomey
5th year (23-25)
**Career record:** 181-135-7
**Offensive coordinator:**
Steve Morton (4th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Keith Burns (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Spartan Stadium (30,456)
**Tickets:** 877-757-8849
**Site:** San Jose, Calif.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.sjsuspartans.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 7 | Kyle Reed (6-3, 215, Sr.) |
| RB | 15 | Brandon Rutley (5-10, 180, So.) |
| LOT | 66 | John Konye (6-4, 270, Jr.) |
| LOG | 72 | Isaac Leatiota (6-4, 295, Jr.) |
| C | 79 | Ronnie Castillo (6-0, 292, Sr.) |
| ROG | 73 | Ailao Eliapo (6-2, 320, Jr.) |
| ROT | 59 | Jon Moreno (6-4, 280, Sr.) |
| TE | 85 | Julian Harris (6-2, 250, Sr.) |
| WR | 83 | Khalil Paden (6-1, 165, So.) |
| WR | 6 | Kevin Jurovich (6-0, 180, Sr.) |
| WR | 9 | Marquis Avery (6-4, 205, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 26 | Mohamed Marah (6-0, 242, Sr.) |
| LDT | 94 | Kalvin Cressel (6-4, 282, Sr.) |
| RDT | 96 | Adonis Davis (6-1, 295, Sr.) |
| RDE | 91 | Carl Ihenacho (6-3, 245, Sr.) |
| SLB | 48 | Ryno Gonzalez (6-1, 215, Jr.) |
| MLB | 14 | Travis Jones (6-1, 220, Sr.) |
| WLB | 93 | Justin Cole (6-3, 240, Sr.) |
| LCB | 20 | Austin Carter (5-10, 180, Sr.) |
| RCB | 30 | Ralph Johnson (5-10, 175, So.) |
| FS | 2 | Duke Ihenacho (6-1, 200, Jr.) |
| SS | 24 | Devin Newsome (5-10, 165, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 35 | Philip Zavala (6-1, 200, Sr.) |
| P | 35 | Philip Zavala (6-1, 200, Sr.) |

The Spartans are looking for redemption after wasting an opportunity to bolster their conference status last fall.

After a 6-3 start in which they appeared to be the only challenger to Boise State for the WAC title, the Spartans endured a torturous three-game losing streak that cost them a winning season and a bowl berth.

Defense carried San Jose State last season and the unit should be solid again this fall, although all eyes are on the offense, which struggled down the stretch in 2008.

But new quarterbacks coach Terry Malley should produce a change for the offense. Malley oversaw some of the most dynamic offensive groups in Arena Football League history with the San Jose SaberCats.

First on Malley's list is to turn quarterback Kyle Reed into the playmaker many expected when he signed with California coming out of high school. After a season on the bench, Reed transferred to San Jose State only to battle a groin injury last year.

Kevin Jurovich, who caught a school-record 85 passes in 2007, is back after missing last season with mono. Joining the Spartans this year will be junior-college transfer Marquis Avery, a big, powerful target who reminds some of former Spartan receiver James Jones.

The woeful running attack should also improve with the installment of junior-college All-American Lamon Muldrow, who will complement speedy sophomore Brandon Rutley.

The defense brings back a solid core, led by end Carl Ihenacho, safety Duke Ihenacho and linebacker Justin Cole, although it will be difficult to duplicate last year's dominating effort after losing three NFL-caliber starters in tackle Jarron Gilbert and cornerbacks Coye Francies and Christopher Owens.

The secondary will be inexperienced.

# UTAH STATE AGGIES 7

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | @UTAH | 10-58 |
| S.19 | @TEXAS A&M | |
| S.26 | Southern Utah | |
| O.2 | @BRIGHAM YOUNG | 14-34 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**0.10 @NEW MEXICO STATE 47-2**

Coming off a tough nonconference slate, the Aggies can make a statement in their first conference game against New Mexico State.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| O.17 | Nevada | 17-44 |
| O.24 | Louisiana Tech | 38-45 |
| O.31 | @FRESNO STATE | 28-30 |
| N.7 | @HAWAII | 30-14 |
| N.14 | San Jose State | 7-30 |
| N.20 | Boise State | 14-49 |
| N.28 | @IDAHO | 42-17 |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 3-9
**WAC:** 3-5

**Coach:** Gary Andersen, 1st year
**Offensive coordinator:**
Dave Baldwin (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Bill Busch (1st year)

**Stadium:** Romney Stadium (25,513)
**Tickets:** 888-878-2831
**Site:** Logan
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.utahstateaggies.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 12 | Diondre Borel (6-0, 174, Jr.) |
| RB | 6 | Robert Turbin (5-10, 202, So.) |
| LOT | 52 | Spencer Johnson (6-5, 285, Jr.) |
| LOG | 76 | Funaki Asisi (6-3, 295, So.) |
| C | 61 | Brennan McFadden (6-2, 294, Sr.) |
| ROG | 68 | Philip Gapelu (6-2, 306, So.) |
| ROT | 74 | Tariq Polley (6-4, 315, Jr.) |
| TE | 48 | Zac Zimmerman (6-6, 252, Sr.) |
| WR | 17 | Xavier Bowman (6-3, 195, Sr.) |
| WR | 81 | Nnamdi Gwacham (6-3, 205, Sr.) |
| WR | 11 | Stanley Morrison (5-9, 151, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 94 | Antonio May (6-4, 231, Sr.) |
| LDT | 57 | Magnum Mauga (5-11, 306, Jr.) |
| RDT | 54 | Nathan Royster (6-0, 252, Jr.) |
| RDE | 37 | Quinn Garner (6-3, 236, So.) |
| SLB | 40 | Bobby Wagner (6-1, 217, So.) |
| MLB | 32 | Jacob Actkinson (6-1, 208, So.) |
| WLB | 31 | Paul Igboeli (6-0, 201, Sr.) |
| LCB | 1 | Kejon Murphy (5-9, 155, Sr.) |
| RCB | 7 | Chris Randle (5-10, 176, Jr.) |
| FS | 3 | James Brindley (5-11, 189, Sr.) |
| SS | 20 | Maxim Dinka (5-11, 211, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 8 | Peter Caldwell (6-4, 236, Jr.) |
| P | 8 | Peter Caldwell (6-4, 236, Jr.) |

The first thing Gary Andersen asked when he was named the Aggies' new coach in December was, "Why not us? Why not now?"

Why not, indeed.

Despite the program's talent level increasing over the past four seasons under Andersen's predecessor, Brent Guy, wins for the Aggies were rare as the team went 9-38 during that stretch.

Enter Andersen, who arrives in the Cache Valley after spending more than a decade at Utah. Now settling in at Utah State, he's mixing things up—a lot.

Heading into the fall, 15 players have changed positions in an effort to get more athletic on defense.

But if Utah State is going to get into the WAC race, it's going to need a massive overhaul on offense. Luckily, new offensive coordinator Dave Baldwin spent the spring implementing the spread. It should help the 10 returning starters from an offense that averaged just 24 points and 334.2 yards per game last season.

The key to making the transition work is junior quarterback Diondre Borel, who showed signs of life as the starter for the final nine games last year.

But if Borel regresses, junior-college transfer Jeffrey Fischer will be quick to take his place.

The defense took an emotional hit early in spring camp when All-WAC linebacker Jake Hutton announced he wouldn't play because of recurring foot problems.

That was no help to defense that among the WAC's worst in 2008 and needs an overhaul.

As the Aggies move through a transition season this year, their best bet is to work from within. Perhaps they will threaten to end the program's seasonal losing streak, which dates back to 1996 when it was a member of the Big West.

# 8 IDAHO VANDALS

The rebuilding project in Moscow continues, as Robb Akey's third year is a crucial one for the once-proud program and its energetic coach, who enters the season with a 3-21 record at the school.

The Vandals are coming off a season in which they tied for last place in the WAC, falling by double digits in nine of their 10 setbacks. But Idaho also earned its first WAC victory in more than two years, ending a 22-game losing streak against Football Bowl Subdivision teams.

What's next?

Well, confidence is growing now that the dust has settled from Akey's two-year housecleaning.

The Vandals find themselves with experience, as most of last year's key roles were filled by underclassmen.

The team's biggest strength is running back, where the Vandals' top three rushers in Deonte' Jackson, Princeton McCarty and Troy Vital all return. They'll be joined by Washington State transfer DeMaundray Woolridge.

Jackson rushed for 1,175 yards in 2007 as a freshman and could be a star, although his carries and impact (696 yards) were limited last season because of injuries.

Quarterback Nathan Enderle made strides a year ago (20 TDs, 17 INTs), but if he struggles, junior-college transfer Brian Reader could push him out. Enderle's challenge is more difficult as he plays behind a rebuilt offensive line.

Experience should help a defense that allowed at least 40 points nine times last season and ranked 117th in the nation in scoring defense (42.8 points per game).

The Vandals haven't yet caught up to the second-tier of the WAC in terms of talent, although the roster is more athletic than previous classes. Familiarity should also help.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | 20-14 |
| S.12 | @WASHINGTON | |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.19** | **San Diego State** | **17-45** |
| The Vandals were one of the Aztecs' two wins last season, and it wasn't close (45-17). This rematch will be a good indicator of where Idaho is headed. | | |
| S.26 | @NORTHERN ILLINOIS | |
| 0.3 | Colorado State | |
| 0.10 | @SAN JOSE STATE | 24-30 |
| 0.17 | Hawaii | 17-49 |
| 0.24 | @NEVADA | 14-49 |
| 0.31 | Louisiana Tech | 14-46 |
| N.7 | Fresno State | 32-45 |
| N.14 | @BOISE STATE | 10-45 |
| N.28 | Utah State | 17-42 |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 2-10
**WAC:** 1-7

**Coach:** Robb Akey
3rd year (3-21)
**Career record:** 3-21
**Offensive coordinator:**
Steve Axman (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Mark Criner (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Kibbie Dome (16,000)
**Tickets:** 208-885-6466
**Site:** Moscow
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.uiathletics.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 10 | Nathan Enderle (6-5, 223, Jr.) |
| RB | 3 | Deonte' Jackson (5-8, 191, Jr.) |
| LOT | 70 | Matt Cleveland (6-4, 310, So.) |
| LOG | 77 | Mike Iupati (6-6, 330, Sr.) |
| C | 69 | Irvin Stevens (6-3, 274, Sr.) |
| ROG | 62 | Adam Juratovac (6-3, 299, Sr.) |
| ROT | 79 | Bryce Sinclair (6-5, 327, Sr.) |
| TE | 89 | Peter Bjorvik (6-4, 245, Sr.) |
| WR | 7 | Preston Davis (6-1, 191, So.) |
| WR | 22 | Max Komar (5-10, 202, Sr.) |
| WR | 1 | Eric Greenwood (6-6, 205, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 95 | Aaron Lavarias (6-3, 262, Jr.) |
| LDT | 93 | Michael Cosgrove (6-4, 265, So.) |
| RDT | 99 | Jonah Sataraka (6-2, 285, Jr.) |
| RDE | 58 | Haroun (Hank) Bryant (6-3, 222, So.) |
| SLB | 34 | Joseph Dickson (6-1, 215, Jr.) |
| MLB | 51 | Tre'Shawn Robinson (5-11, 243, So.) |
| WLB | 1 | Robert Siavii (6-2, 195, So.) |
| LCB | 23 | Kenneth Patten (5-9, 183, So.) |
| RCB | 27 | Isaac Butts (6-0, 175, Jr.) |
| FS | 6 | Jeromy Jones (6-0, 200, Sr.) |
| SS | 10 | Shiloh Keo (5-10, 214, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 21 | Trey Farquhar (6-1, 175, Fr.) |
| P | 13 | Bobby Cowan (6-4, 212, Fr.) |

# 9 NEW MEXICO STATE AGGIES

After 11 wins in four years, Hal Mumme and his "Air Raid" offense were replaced by former UCLA defensive coordinator DeWayne Walker during the offseason.

Walker's biggest job is to restore confidence to a program that ended 2008 with a seven-game losing streak and hasn't been to a bowl game since 1960—the longest drought in FBS football.

There are new schemes and philosophies on both sides of the ball this year, so it's going to take some time to put all the pieces together. However, Walker brought in 12 junior-college transfers in hopes of speeding the transition.

New Mexico State's young defense ranked in the middle of the conference in most categories last year and returns several key players, including linebacker Nick Paden. But the Aggies are instituting a new 4-3 scheme and the secondary is loaded with unproven players.

The biggest changes and challenges will be on offense, which for all its gaudy yards—the Aggies ranked 10th in the nation in passing offense last season—produced surprisingly few touchdowns (25).

Prolific quarterback Chase Holbrook is gone, along with most of his receivers and the pass-happy scheme. As a result, new offensive coordinator Timm Rosenbach spent the spring teaching a more balanced attack that places greater emphasis on ball control. That means more work for tailbacks Marquell Colston, Tonny Glynn and fullback Brandon Perez, who have all shown flashes of talent but were underutilized by the previous regime.

Junior-college transfer Jeff Fleming and redshirt freshman Trevor Walls lead the quarterback derby. Whoever wins the job will work with an inexperienced receiving corps led by Marcus Anderson, who moves into the No. 1 spot, and an untested offensive line.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.5** | **Idaho** | **14-20** |
| The first of three home games to open the DeWayne Walker era will give the Aggies a good idea of where their talent level stands. | | |
| S.12 | Prairie View A&M | |
| S.19 | UTEP | 34-33 |
| S.26 | @NEW MEXICO | 24-35 |
| 0.3 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | |
| 0.10 | Utah State | 2-47 |
| 0.17 | @LOUISIANA TECH | 31-35 |
| 0.24 | Fresno State | 17-24 |
| 0.31 | @OHIO STATE | |
| N.14 | @HAWAII | 30-42 |
| N.21 | Nevada | 48-45 |
| N.28 | @SAN JOSE STATE | 14-31 |
| D.5 | @BOISE STATE | 0-49 |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 3-9
**WAC:** 1-7

**Coach:** DeWayne Walker, 1st year

**Offensive coordinator:**

Timm Rosenbach (1st year)

**Defensive coordinator:**

DeWayne Walker (1st year)

**Stadium:** Aggie Memorial Stadium (30,343)
**Tickets:** 505-646-1420
**Site:** Las Cruces
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.nmstatesports.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 9 | Jeff Fleming (6-4, 195, So.) |
| RB | 3 | Marquell Colston (5-9, 205, Sr.) |
| LOT | 62 | Michael Grady (6-3, 302, So.) |
| LOG | 76 | Chuck Taylor (6-3, 345, Jr.) |
| C | 78 | Kyle Smith (6-6, 312, Jr.) |
| ROG | 67 | Joseph Palmer (6-3, 308, Sr.) |
| ROT | 73 | Patrick Blount (6-3, 275, Jr.) |
| TE | 17 | Kyle Nelson (6-4, 232, Jr.) |
| WR | 10 | Marcus Anderson (5-8, 166, Sr.) |
| WR | 5 | Julius Fleming (5-8, 162, So.) |
| WR | 7 | Todd Lee (5-9, 155, So.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 39 | Spencer Diaz (6-5, 206, Jr.) |
| LDT | 99 | Dejuan Yates (6-2, 280, Jr.) |
| RDT | 92 | Vincent Federico (6-4, 290, Jr.) |
| RDE | 52 | Donte Savage (6-1, 229, So.) |
| SLB | 56 | Sam King (6-0, 223, Sr.) |
| MLB | 42 | Nick Paden (6-3, 235, Sr.) |
| WLB | 9 | Jason Scott (5-10, 207, Sr.) |
| LCB | 4 | Davon House (6-0, 172, Jr.) |
| RCB | 15 | Junior Fasavalu (6-0, 191, Sr.) |
| FS | 2 | Alphonso Powell (5-9, 182, Jr.) |
| SS | 8 | Chris Buckner (6-0, 188, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 96 | Kyle Hughes (6-0, 184, So.) |
| P | 96 | Kyle Hughes (6-0, 184, So.) |

## ALL-MOUNTAIN WEST

### OFFENSE

- QB Max Hall, Sr., BYU
- RB Harvey Unga, Jr., BYU
- RB Asher Clark, So., Air Force
- OL Zane Beadles, Sr., Utah
- OL Nick Charles, Sr., Air Force
- OL Shelley Smith, Sr., Colorado State
- OL Marshall Newhouse, Sr., TCU
- OL Erik Cook, Sr., New Mexico
- TE Dennis Pitta, Sr., BYU
- WR Rashaun Greer, Sr., Colorado State
- WR Ryan Wolfe, Sr., UNLV

### DEFENSE

- DL Jerry Hughes, Sr., TCU
- DL Jan Jorgensen, Sr., BYU
- DL Koa Misi, Sr., Utah
- DL John Fletcher, Sr., Wyoming
- LB Stevenson Sylvester, Sr., Utah
- LB Jason Beauchamp, Sr., UNLV
- LB Ken Lamendola, Jr., Air Force
- DB Rafael Priest, Sr., TCU
- DB Nick Sanders, Sr., TCU
- DB Chris Thomas, Sr., Air Force
- DB Chris Prosinski, Jr., Wyoming

### SPECIALISTS

- K Mitch Payne, Jr., BYU
- P Austin McCoy, So., Wyoming

## FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

**1** The record for the largest crowd to ever watch a football game in the state of Wyoming will be set Sept. 12 when Texas comes to War Memorial Stadium to face the Cowboys. It will likely be the first loss for first-year coach Dave Christensen.

**2** Air Force will win the Commander-in-Chief Trophy by beating Navy Oct. 3 and Army Nov. 7. The Falcons should have won it last year but let the Midshipmen off the hook at home, falling 33-27.

**3** UNLV head coach Mike Sanford will deliver the Rebels to a bowl game for the first time since he was an assistant at Utah in 2004. Sanford has the offense to do it.

**4** San Diego State first-year coach Brady Hoke will get off to a 2-1 start with wins over Southern Utah and Idaho after losing to UCLA in his Sept. 5 debut. After that, conference wins will be tough.

# Utes primed for another BCS run but will face challenges from BYU, TCU

**By Steve Carp,** *Las Vegas Review-Journal*

The shockwaves are still reverberating months after Utah walloped Alabama 31-17 in the Sugar Bowl.

How could a team from the Mountain West Conference compete with the mighty Southeastern Conference, much less beat the tar out of one of its BCS-quality squads?

Had anyone watched the Utes compete in the Mountain West, they might have foreseen what transpired inside the Louisiana Superdome Jan. 2. Or perhaps they need only refer to their history books from 2004, when the Utes handled Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl.

Coach Kyle Whittingham used a veteran quarterback, quality interior linemen on both sides of the ball and filled the gaps with enough athletes at the skill positions to have a magical 2008 season. In doing so, Utah earned the MWC respect.

Of course, the Utes never got a chance to play for the big prize. The Mountain West will again likely be on the outside looking in when the BCS title game is contested—even with MWC commissioner Craig Thompson's campaigning on Capitol Hill.

Still, the league had another good year, placing five teams in bowl games and going 3-2 in those contests.

Both TCU and BYU, who were predicted to contend for the top spot a year ago only to get run over by Utah, are coming off good seasons. New coach Steve Fairchild did an outstanding job getting Colorado State turned around in 2008. UNLV showed signs of life but stumbled in its final game against San Diego State, which, despite ending its season on the uptick, decided to make a coaching change.

In fact, three schools—San Diego State, New Mexico and Wyoming—all have new head coaches. And the mandate will be to do what Fairchild did at Colorado State and quickly turn a losing program into a bowl-eligible enterprise.

That may not be realistic given that Utah, BYU, TCU and Air Force aren't going away anytime soon. And don't expect any slippage from Colorado State or UNLV either.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Jeremy Crabtree, *Rivals.com*

**1. UTAH** The Utes finished in the national recruiting rankings as the top non-Big Six program. This class should help Utah remain the best of the Mountain West.

**2. TCU** The Horned Frogs didn't fall too far behind Utah in the national rankings. The talent is deep, which should help TCU remain one of the league's best.

**3. BYU** The Cougars continue to do a tremendous job locally, and the strength they have with players of the Mormon faith is tremendous.

**4. UNLV** The Rebels took some major strides on the field this past season and capitalized on a great year for talent in the state of Nevada.

**5. WYOMING** It was a transition year for the Cowboys, but they did a lot of damage. Look for Wyoming to be competitive in Big 12 territory.

**6. NEW MEXICO** A new coaching staff brought a lot of excitement to the program. They have ties to many regions now, and it should help with recruiting.

**7. COLORADO STATE** The Rams have become one of the fastest-rising programs in the Mountain West, so look for them to continue climbing the recruiting charts.

**8. SAN DIEGO STATE** There was a coaching change in San Diego, and it's unfair to judge the new staff based on this group. The Brady Hoke hire has California talent looking at SDSU again.

**9. AIR FORCE** The Falcons have never registered high in the recruiting rankings, but they continue to win a lot of games.

## ASCENDING

**UNLV** Earning five wins last season after three straight years of just two victories is a step in the right direction. With quarterback Omar Clayton, that five should be a six or seven this year.

## DESCENDING

**NEW MEXICO** The team's 2-6 conference record from a year ago is troublesome, and with 13 starters gone, first-year coach Mike Locksley has his work cut out for him.

Mtn. WEST

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

## MOUNTAIN WEST

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

1. Utah
2. BYU
3. TCU
4. Air Force
5. Colorado State
6. UNLV
7. New Mexico
8. San Diego State
9. Wyoming

## RATING THE PLAYERS

**Fastest Receiver**
Jimmy Young, TCU

**Best Hands**
Phillip Payne, WR, UNLV

**Best Passing QB**
Max Hall, BYU

**Best Running QB**
Tim Jefferson, Air Force

**Most Elusive RB**
John Mosure, Colorado State

**Best Instincts**
Ryan Wolfe, WR, UNLV

**Best Athlete**
Robert Johnson, S, Utah

**Best Under Pressure**
Mitch Payne, K, BYU

**Top NFL Prospect**
Jerry Hughes, DE, TCU

**Hardest Hitter**
Nick Sanders, CB, TCU

**Biggest Underachiever**
Karsten Sween, QB, Wyoming

**Best Home-Field Advantage**
BYU

**Best Fans**
New Mexico

**Best Mascot**
Monty Montezuma, San Diego State

**Best Stadium**
LaVell Edwards Stadium, BYU

MOUNTAIN WEST PRESEASON RANK

# 1 UTAH UTES

TOP 25 PICK

MATT ASIATA » RB

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | Utah State | 58-10 |
| S.12 | @SAN JOSE STATE | |
| S.19 | @OREGON | |
| S.26 | Louisville | |
| 0.10 | @COLORADO STATE | 49-16 |
| 0.17 | @UNLV | 42-21 |
| 0.24 | Air Force | 30-23 |
| 0.31 | Wyoming | 40-7 |
| N.7 | New Mexico | 13-10 |
| N.14 | @TCU | 13-10 |
| N.21 | San Diego State | 63-14 |
| N.28 | @BRIGHAM YOUNG | 48-24 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.19 @OREGON**

If the Utes want to continue to remain in the national spotlight, they'll need to win games like this. It will be interesting to see how Utah's new faces respond to playing in the frenzied atmosphere of Autzen Stadium.

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL

» POINSETTIA BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE » B+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

» There's depth to fill the holes at key positions, but these players are still untested on Saturdays.

Once the celebration of winning the Sugar Bowl had ended, Utah coach Kyle Whittingham and his staff realized they had work to do if the Utes were to repeat last year's success in 2009.

Utah will have to replace a quarterback, punter and kicker, as well as various positions on defense.

But when you're the king, it's not easy to be pushed off your throne. So while there's no question Utah will miss quarterback Brian Johnson, kicker/punter Louie Sakoda, defensive end Paul Kruger and cornerbacks Sean Smith and Brice McCain, Whittingham knew this day was coming, and he was prepared.

Not only did Utah sign an outstanding class of recruits, it returns 24 redshirt freshmen in 2009. Throw in three players back from their church missions and there will be enough quality to fill the holes created by those who have departed.

The big question is, who will play quarterback? Junior Corbin Louks has the inside track because of past experience. But redshirt freshman DeVonte Christopher is an outstanding athlete, who may be better suited to run Utah's spread offense.

Louks has the job heading into fall practice, but he's not locked in.

The Utes have a good tandem in the backfield as bruising senior Matt Asiata (707 rushing yards) teams with elusive junior Eddie Wide (6.1 yards per carry) to give Utah a nice inside-outside threat.

The offensive line is the team's strongest unit, and it's anchored by All-America candidate Zane Beadles. Beadles, along with guard Caleb Schlauderaff and center Zane Taylor, give Utah a tough left side.

Despite losing all their starters at wide receiver, the Utes believe they have talented replacements in David Reed, Aiona Key, Jereme Brooks and Elijah Wesson. And if the NCAA grants John Peel an eligibility extension, there will be an additional receiver pushing for playing time.

Defensively, Utah will continue to be a force. End Koa Misi (68 tackles, 8.5 for loss) had the luxury of playing alongside Kruger last year. Now, he will anchor the line.

At linebacker, All-American Stevenson Sylvester (73 tackles) had three sacks in the Sugar Bowl win over

MARVIN GENTRY / US PRESSWIRE

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

Corbin Louks

| GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 181.94 | 4-7-0 | 57.1 | 104 | 0 | 11.6 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Matt Asiata | 13 | 146 | 707 | 4.8 | 12 | 54.4 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jereme Brooks | 13 | 30 | 331 | 11.0 | 1 | 25.5 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mike Wright | 13 | 35 | 46 | 81 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Stevenson Sylvester | 13 | 3.5 | 23 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Robert Johnson | 4 | 7 | 1.8 | 0 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 13-0
**Mountain West:** 8-0
*(beat Alabama in the Sugar Bowl, 31-17)*

**Coach:** Kyle Whittingham
5th year (37-14)
**Career record:** 37-14
**Offensive coordinator:**
Dave Schramm (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Kalani Sitake (1st year)

**Stadium:** Rice-Eccles Stadium (45,017)
**Tickets:** 801-581-8849
**Site:** Salt Lake City
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.utahutes.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 19 | Corbin Louks (6-0, 190, Jr.) |
| | 15 | DeVonte Christopher (6-1, 190, r-Fr.) |
| RB | 4 | Matt Asiata (5-11, 230, Sr.) |
| | 36 | Eddie Wide (5-10, 195, Jr.) |
| LOT | 68 | Zane Beadles (6-4, 305, Sr.) |
| | 67 | Derek Tuimauga (6-4, 304, Fr.) |
| LOG | 72 | Caleb Schlauderaff (6-4, 300, Jr.) |
| | 74 | Sam Brenner (6-3, 291, Fr.) |
| C | 77 | Zane Taylor (6-2, 300, Jr.) |
| | 57 | Tyler Williams (6-1, 282, Sr.) |
| ROG | 55 | Neli A'asa (6-2, 288, Jr.) |
| | 71 | Walter Watts (6-2, 296, Jr.) |
| ROT | 70 | Tony Bergstrom (6-6, 300, So.) |
| | 75 | Viliamu Nau (6-6, 300, Sr.) |
| TE | 80 | Chris Joppru (6-6, 267, Sr.) |
| | 84 | Brad Clifford (6-4, 250, Jr.) |
| WR | 16 | David Reed (6-0, 190, Sr.) |
| | 9 | Aiona Key (6-4, 209, Sr.) |
| WR | 85 | Jereme Brooks (5-7, 170, Jr.) |
| | 8 | Elijah Wesson (5-11, 190, Sr.) |
| WR | 82 | John Peel (6-1, 185, Sr.) |
| | 26 | Ryan Lacy (5-10, 184, Fr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 90 | Derrick Shelby (6-3, 250, So.) |
| | 44 | Dave Kruger (6-5, 272, Fr.) |
| LDT | 43 | Lei Talamaivao (6-2, 280, So.) |
| | 98 | Sealver Siliga (6-3, 311, So.) |
| RDT | 92 | Kenape Eliapo (6-0, 310, Sr.) |
| | 96 | Junior Tui'one (6-4, 274, Jr.) |
| RDE | 41 | Koa Misi (6-3, 256, Sr.) |
| | 94 | Christian Cox (6-1, 248, Jr.) |
| SLB | 59 | Kepa Gaison (5-10, 215, Sr.) |
| | 42 | Nai Fotu (6-0, 235, Jr.) |
| MLB | 20 | Mike Wright (6-2, 239, Sr.) |
| | 50 | Mo Neal (6-2, 221, So.) |
| WLB | 10 | Stevenson Sylvester (6-2, 224, Sr.) |
| | 32 | Chaz Walker (5-11, 213, So.) |
| LCB | 27 | Brandon Burton (6-0, 184, So.) |
| | 6 | Kamaron Yancy (5-9, 187 Jr.) |
| RCB | 25 | R.J. Stanford (5-11, 184, Sr.) |
| | 24 | Justin Jones (5-9, 180, Sr.) |
| FS | 17 | Robert Johnson (6-2, 195, Sr.) |
| | 28 | Reggie Topps (5-11, 180, Fr.) |
| SS | 12 | Joe Dale (5-11, 200, Sr.) |
| | 33 | Justin Taplin-Ross (6-3, 208, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 30 | Ben Vroman (6-0, 203, Sr.) |
| P | 95 | Sean Sellwood (6-3, 200, r-Fr.) |

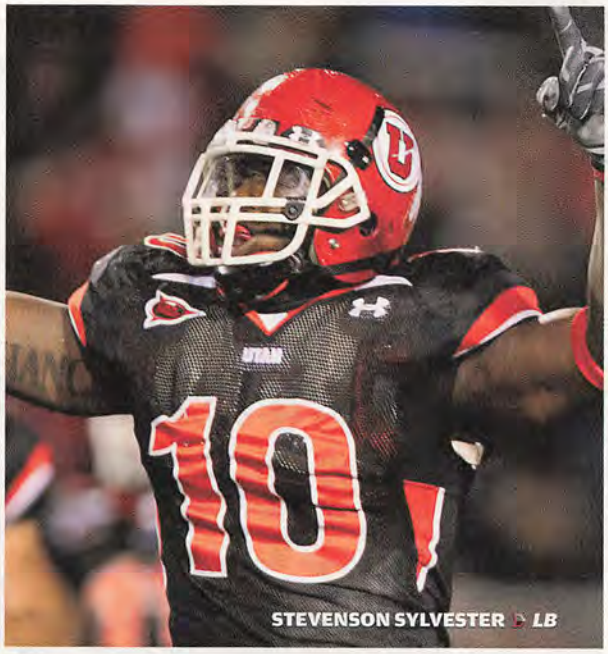
*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | UTAH | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 480 | 224 |
| Points Per Game | 36.9 | 17.2 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 282 | 209 |
| Rushing | 112 | 78 |
| Passing | 154 | 103 |
| Penalty | 16 | 28 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 2034 | 1289 |
| Yards gained rushing | 2361 | 1658 |
| Yards lost rushing | 327 | 369 |
| Rushing Attempts | 499 | 415 |
| Average Per Rush | 4.1 | 3.1 |
| Average Per Game | 156.5 | 99.2 |
| TDs Rushing | 24 | 10 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 3178 | 2470 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 414-279-9 | 409-225-19 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.7 | 6.0 |
| Average Per Catch | 11.4 | 11.0 |
| Average Per Game | 244.5 | 190.0 |
| TDs Passing | 29 | 15 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 5212 | 3759 |
| Total Plays | 913 | 824 |
| Average Per Play | 5.7 | 4.6 |
| Average Per Game | 400.9 | 289.2 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 37-851 | 46-1003 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 33-211 | 10-101 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 19-335 | 9-118 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | UTAH | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 23.0 | 21.8 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 6.4 | 10.1 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 17.6 | 13.1 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 23-9 | 21-12 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 90-817 | 91-661 |
| Average Per Game | 62.8 | 50.8 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 57-2357 | 78-3034 |
| Average Per Punt | 41.4 | 38.9 |
| Net punt average | 35.7 | 35.2 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 32:21 | 27:38 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 82/181 | 54/178 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 45% | 30% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 10/15 | 6/15 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 67% | 40% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 29-224 | 25-154 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 59 | 28 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 22-24 | 11-19 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 56-57 | 23-24 |
| ATTENDANCE | 273250 | 231800 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/45542 | 6/38633 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/71872 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Utah | 117 | 152 | 83 | 128 | 480 |
| Opponent | 54 | 75 | 40 | 55 | 224 |


STEVENSON SYLVESTER ▷ LB

Alabama. The Utes' defense has only one question mark: Nai Fotu's health. The linebacker was held out of spring drills following knee surgery, but if he's good to go, Utah's defense will benefit.

In the secondary, the Utes are in good shape with safeties Robert Johnson and Joe Dale. But the losses of Smith and McCain will be tough to overcome. R.J. Stanford, who played in nickel packages a year ago, starts at one corner while Brandon Burton will likely man the other spot.

But while Johnson, Kruger, Smith and McCain will be missed, Sakoda's departure may be the biggest void for Whittingham to fill. Not only was he an effective kicker, Sakoda was an outstanding punter. So in reality, Whittingham has two special-teams spots to fill.

Entering the competition at kicker are senior Ben Vroman, who has handled the kickoff chores the past three years; sophomore Coleman Peterson and junior-college transfer Joe Phillips. The punting chores will likely to go to redshirt freshman Sean Sellwood.

Utah's biggest strength was its ability to win close games. No doubt, a lot of that had to do with Johnson's experience at quarterback and the defense's ability to get stops.

So if the Utes hope to repeat, they'll need to find a way to keep that trend going.

### RECRUITING REPORT

The strength of this year's class is in the trenches. Utah landed five-star defensive end **James Aiono**, the nation's top junior-college player, who will lead the way on the defensive line. But don't forget about tackles **Latu Heimuli, Siosaia Tuipulotu** and **Jeremiah Tofaeono.** On the other side of the ball, the Utes are led by guards **Vyncent Jones, Percy Taumoelau** and **Kapua Sai.** Junior-college transfer **Terrance Cain** is a talented dual-threat quarterback who enrolled in January. **Conroy Black, Maxwell Lacy** and **Kamaron Yancy** are defensive backs who can run.
*–Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *SEAN SELLWOOD, K*

The kicking game at Utah was sensational during the Louie Sakoda era. Now the 6-3, 200-pound redshirt freshman Sellwood takes over the punting duties. And with his big leg, the Utes shouldn't miss a beat on special teams.

MITCH DUMKE / UNIVERSITY OF UTAH SPORTS INFORMATION

# 2 BRIGHAM YOUNG COUGARS

In his four years as coach, Bronco Mendenhall has brought a level of consistency to the program.

Four straight bowl games, two Mountain West titles and Top 25 rankings in each of the last three campaigns prove Mendenhall's vision.

But last season didn't end as well as Cougars fans would have liked, even though BYU finished with a 10-3 record.

When you round out the season with a loss to your state rival (which goes on to win a BCS bowl game) and then lose your own bowl game, that's a tough way to go out. So the challenge for the Cougars in 2009 is to start fast and finish faster.

The fast start may not be easy, as BYU opens its season against Oklahoma in the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium on Sept. 5. The following week, the Cougars play Tulane at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. And when they finally get outside on Sept. 19 for their home opener, the opponent will be Florida State, hardly a gimmee.

Fortunately for Cougars fans, quarterback Max Hall, BYU's Heisman Trophy candidate, is not afraid of a challenge. Ranking ninth nationally in total offense (313.2 yards per game) last year, Hall had 35 touchdowns, seven of which came in BYU's 59-0 rout of UCLA.

Unfortunately, Hall's favorite targets Austin Collie and Michael Reed are gone. Collie entered in the NFL draft after his junior year and Reed graduated. But Hall may have a new favorite receiver in McKay Jacobson, who returns after serving his Mormon mission in Japan. In 2006, Jacobson turned in a great freshman campaign with 28 catches for 574 yards and three touchdowns. BYU also has an outstanding tight end in Dennis Pitta, a unanimous first-team all-conference pick in '08.

If Hall decides to run the ball, he can give it to bruising 239-pound running back Harvey Unga, who has had back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons. Bolstering the backfield is Bryan Kariya (5.6 yards per carry) and sophomore J.J. Di Luigi.

The Mountain West's career sacks leader with 24, Jan Jorgensen leads a defense that has had its ups and downs. Giving the Cougars a push up front are Bernard Afutiti, Brett Denney and Russell Tialavea.

There is experience at linebacker, as Matt Bauman, Coleby Clawson and Shawn Doman all return. They are athletic and versatile, and will complement the front line. Weakness comes from the secondary, where Scott Johnson is the lone player with serious experience.

Kicker Mitch Payne and punter Tyler Holt are both strong on special teams, but O'Neill Chambers is the dangerous threat on punt and kickoff returns. He'll look to give the offense good field position whenever he gets his hands on the ball.

BYU has enough weapons to make a case for the Mountain West title chase, especially since the Cougars have the best quarterback in the league. To see them celebrating with the MWC championship trophy in November would not be a surprise. After all, they've already done it a couple of times in the Mendenhall era.

DENNIS PITTA ▷ TE

JAY DROWNS / SN

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***MATT REYNOLDS, LT***

A 2008 Freshman All-American, Reynolds will anchor a line that has four new starters.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 10-3
**Mountain West:** 6-2
*(lost to Arizona in the Las Vegas Bowl, 31-21)*

**Coach:** Bronco Mendenhall 5th year (38-13)
**Career record:** 38-13
**Offensive coordinator:** Robert Anae (5th year)
**Defensive coordinator:** Jamie Hill (2nd year)

**Stadium:** LaVell Edwards Stadium (64,045)
**Tickets:** 800-322-BYU1
**Site:** Provo, Utah
**Official athletic Web site:** www.byucougars.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.5** | **@OKLAHOMA*** | |
| In the season opener, the Cougars will get a taste of the big time by playing the Sooners in the Dallas Cowboys' fancy new playpen. | | |
| **S.12** | @TULANE | |
| **S.19** | Florida State | |
| **S.26** | Colorado State | 45-42 |
| **0.2** | Utah State | 34-14 |
| **0.10** | @UNLV | 42-35 |
| **0.17** | @SAN DIEGO STATE | 41-12 |
| **0.24** | TCU | 7-32 |
| **N.7** | @WYOMING | 44-0 |
| **N.14** | @NEW MEXICO | 21-3 |
| **N.21** | Air Force | 38-24 |
| **N.28** | Utah | 24-48 |

** at Arlington, Texas*

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL
» LAS VEGAS BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» With the best quarterback in the league, the Cougars figure to be a factor in every game.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 15 | Max Hall (6-1, 201, Sr.) |
| RB | 45 | Harvey Unga (6-0, 239, Jr.) |
| LOT | 70 | Matt Reynolds (6-6, 320, So.) |
| LOG | 60 | Terence Brown (6-3, 351, So.) |
| C | 64 | R.J. Willing (6-5, 310, Sr.) |
| ROG | 73 | Jason Speredon (6-5, 305, Jr.) |
| ROT | 76 | Braden Hansen (6-6, 286, Fr.) |
| TE | 32 | Dennis Pitta (6-5, 248, Sr.) |
| WR | 6 | McKay Jacobson (5-11, 192, So.) |
| WR | 29 | Luke Ashworth (6-2, 201, Jr.) |
| WR | 11 | O'Neill Chambers (6-2, 209, So.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 84 | Jan Jorgensen (6-3, 259, Sr.) |
| NT | 52 | Russell Tialavea (6-3, 286, Sr.) |
| RDE | 90 | Benard Afutiti (6-1, 262, Jr.) |
| LOLB | 35 | Matt Bauman (6-1, 229, Sr.) |
| LILB | 51 | Matt Ah You (5-11, 220, Jr.) |
| RILB | 42 | Shawn Doman (6-2, 232, Sr.) |
| ROLB | 41 | Coleby Clawson (6-3, 234, Sr.) |
| LCB | | Brian Logan (5-9, 195, Jr.) |
| RCB | | Lee Aguirre (5-9, 200, Jr.) |
| FS | 21 | Scott Johnson (5-11, 188, Sr.) |
| SS | 22 | Andrew Rich (6-3, 215, Jr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 38 | Mitch Payne (6-2, 210, Sr.) |
| P | 31 | Tyler Holt (5-9, 177, So.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1**
**Craig Bills**
*S, 6-1, 196*
Bills isn't the fastest or strongest player at the position, but he makes a ton of plays.

**2**
**Kyle Van Noy**
*LB, 6-4, 209*
He will redshirt this season, but after that, look for Van Noy to take off as one of the Cougars' best athletes.

**3**
**Terry Alletto**
*OL, 6-4, 280*
A true interior lineman, Alletto has deep family connections with BYU and should be a star.

**4**
**Richard Wilson**
*TE, 6-3, 223*
He could have signed with many BCS programs, but Wilson is staying home and will be a flex tight end.

**5**
**Brett Thompson**
*WR, 6-3, 205*
Thompson is a solid possession receiver with more than adequate speed.

# TEXAS CHRISTIAN HORNED FROGS 3

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.12 | @VIRGINIA | |
| S.19 | Texas State | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.26 @CLEMSON**

TCU's athleticism will be put to the test as the Horned Frogs try to contain the speedy Tigers in this hostile environment.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0.3 | SMU | 48-7 |
| 0.10 | @AIR FORCE | 44-10 |
| 0.17 | Colorado State | 13-7 |
| 0.24 | @BRIGHAM YOUNG | 32-7 |
| 0.31 | UNLV | 44-14 |
| N.7 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | 41-7 |
| N.14 | Utah | 10-13 |
| N.21 | @WYOMING | 54-7 |
| N.28 | New Mexico | 26-3 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL

» ARMED FORCES BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS**

» The defense remains one of the best and with Dalton's progress at QB, the offense figures to hold up its end too.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 14 | Andy Dalton (6-3, 215, Jr.) |
| FB | 48 | Luke Shivers (6-0, 220, So.) |
| RB | 18 | Ryan Christian (5-11, 180, Sr.) |
| LOT | 70 | Marshall Newhouse (6-3, 317, Sr.) |
| LOG | 72 | Kyle Dooley (6-3, 310, So.) |
| C | 76 | Jake Kirkpatrick (6-3, 305, Jr.) |
| ROG | 78 | Josh Vernon (6-2, 295, Jr.) |
| ROT | 61 | Marcus Cannon (6-5, 350, Jr.) |
| TE | 84 | Evan Frosch (6-4, 260, Jr.) |
| WR | 88 | Jimmy Young (6-1, 200, Jr.) |
| WR | 6 | Bart Johnson (6-1, 190, Jr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 98 | Jerry Hughes (6-3, 257, Sr.) |
| LDT | 69 | Kelly Griffin (6-1, 295, Jr.) |
| RDT | 96 | Wayne Daniels (6-2, 250, Jr.) |
| RDE | 52 | Ross Forrest (6-4, 242, So.) |
| SLB | 19 | Daryl Washington (6-3, 228, Sr.) |
| MLB | 43 | Tank Carder (6-2, 232, So.) |
| WLB | 41 | Corderra Hunter (6-2, 220, Sr.) |
| LCB | 20 | Nick Sanders (5-10, 174, Sr.) |
| RCB | 10 | Rafael Priest (5-10, 181, Sr.) |
| FS | 3 | Tejay Johnson (6-1, 212, Jr.) |
| SS | 25 | Sir Demarco Bledsoe (6-2, 195, So.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 37 | Ross Evans (5-11, 180, So.) |
| P | 47 | Anson Kelton (6-4, 260, So.) |

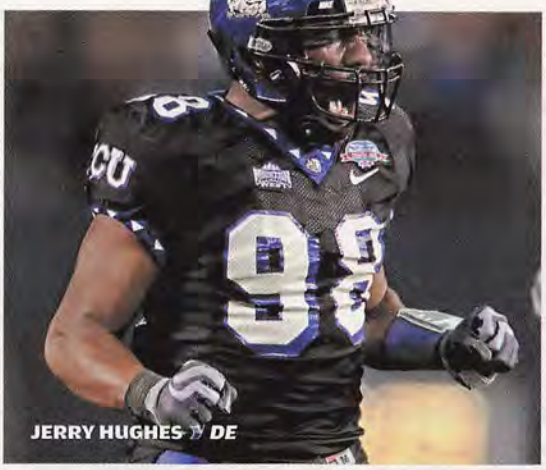
*Sporting News All-American*

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 11-2
**Mountain West:** 7-1
*(beat Boise State in the Poinsettia Bowl, 17-16)*

**Coach:** Gary Patterson
9th year (73-27)
**Career record:** 73-27
**Offensive coordinator:**
Jarrett Anderson (1st year)
**Defensive coordinators:**
Justin Fuente (1st year)
Dick Bumpas (6th year)

**Stadium:** Amon G. Carter Stadium (44,008)
**Tickets:** 817-257-FROG
**Site:** Fort Worth
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.gofrogs.com



JERRY HUGHES » DE

CHRISTOPHER HANEWINCKEL / US PRESSWIRE

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

It says something about a program when a team finishes 11-2 and players use that "disappointment" as motivation during the offseason.

In 2008, the Horned Frogs notched double-digit wins and beat nationally ranked Boise State in the Poinsettia Bowl, but there was no Mountain West regular-season title. And there was no BCS bowl game.

When you factor in Utah's success in 2008, TCU has plenty of incentive to become one of the nation's elite this season.

Boasting arguably the best defense in the nation anchored by one of the country's best linemen, there's a good chance big things will happen.

End Jerry Hughes, a first-team All-American, makes TCU a dangerous team. Last year, he led the nation with 15 sacks, had six forced fumbles and a pair of interceptions.

But Hughes wasn't the only player on the field.

TCU's stacked defense allowed just 47.1 yards rushing per game, tops in the nation.

This fall, however, only four starters are back—Hughes, cornerbacks Rafael Priest and Nick Sanders and safety Tejay Johnson. Priest and Sanders have started every game the last three seasons.

But Braylon Broughton, Ross Forrest, Wayne Daniels and Kelly Griffin all have experience to work with Hughes up front, while Daryl Washington, Tank Carder, Corderra Hunter and Tanner Brock should give TCU depth at linebacker.

Offensively, scoring needs to pick up.

Quarterback Andy Dalton, one of the more underrated players in the conference, had just five interceptions in 307 passing attempts in 2008. With improved decision-making skills, the junior should have his best year to date.

In wideout Jimmy Young (59 catches, 988 yards), Dalton has a great target. Bart Johnson and Jeremy Kerley, who had 26 receptions between them last year, should increase their numbers in 2009 as Dalton gets them more involved in the offense.

Dalton will have plenty of time in the pocket thanks to offensive tackles Marshall Newhouse and Marcus Cannon, who return along with guard Kyle Dooley.

Still, TCU needs to replace three-time all-conference center Blake Schlueter. Junior Jake Kirkpatrick will likely be the successor.

Patterson has done a great job in his eight years at TCU and Year 9 figures to be no different. He has the components in place to challenge Utah and BYU for the league championship, and one thing is certain: This team will not be lacking any motivation after falling short of the title last year.

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 Waymon James**
*RB, 5-8, 203*
He has all the tools to be the next great running back in a long line of greats at TCU.

**2 Casey Pachall**
*QB, 6-4, 189*
He's the type of steady quarterback who flourishes in the Horned Frogs' offense.

**3 Jurell Thompson**
*S 5-10, 191*
He could have gone almost anywhere in the Big 12, but stayed in the Dallas Metroplex area to play for TCU.

**4 Malcolm Williams**
*S, 5-11, 205*
He originally signed with Oklahoma out of high school and is a true star-in-the-making out of junior college.

**5 Tanner Brock**
*LB, 6-3, 210*
Steady and hard-hitting, Brock has an amazing nose for the football and was one of central Texas' best.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***EVAN FROSCH, TE***

Frosch had only 10 receptions last year as a sophomore, and two of those grabs went for touchdowns. At 6-4 and 260 pounds, he may become the perfect bailout option when TCU's receivers are tied up.

# 4 AIR FORCE FALCONS

Air Force started its 2008 campaign strong with three straight wins. The finish, however, was not what coach Troy Calhoun, his players or the fans were looking for as the Falcons dropped their final three games, including a 34-28 loss to Houston in the Armed Forces Bowl.

Still, things are positive in Colorado Springs as the Falcons try to move up in the Mountain West standings following last year's fourth-place finish.

Calhoun returns 13 starters (7 on defense), which will help Air Force remain competitive. Linebacker Ken Lamendola, the team's leading tackler (118) in 2008, hopes to spearhead a group that was nasty at times last season.

Cornerbacks Anthony Wright and Reggie Rembert and safety Chris Thomas combined for six interceptions in '08 and benefited from a great pass rush. Though end Jake Paulson, (who led the team last year with nine sacks) graduated, the secondary should still be a force.

On offense, the quarterback situation looked stable with the return of sophomore Tim Jefferson but that may not be the case anymore. Jefferson missed the majority of spring practice due to extra classes so he could make up for poor academics.

If he does suit up in the fall, the Falcons' offense should be potent as four starting linemen return. Also back is tailback Asher Clark.

Overall, Air Force averaged 26.8 points a game last season and allowed just 22.2 per contest. However, in those last three losses of 2008, the Falcons allowed 38.6 points per game. If Calhoun, with his 17-9 career mark and postseason success, wants to continue his progress with the Falcons, he'll find a way to finish the season strong.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Nicholls State | |
| S.12 | @MINNESOTA | |
| S.19 | @NEW MEXICO | 23-10 |
| S.26 | San Diego State | 35-10 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| 0.3 | @NAVY | 27-33 |

If the Falcons are serious about winning the Commander-in-Chief Trophy, this is the game they have to win.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0.10 | TCU | 10-44 |
| 0.17 | Wyoming | 23-3 |
| 0.24 | @UTAH | 23-30 |
| 0.31 | @COLORADO STATE | 38-17 |
| N.7 | Army | 16-7 |
| N.14 | UNLV | 29-28 |
| N.21 | @BRIGHAM YOUNG | 24-38 |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5
**Mountain West:** 5-3
*(lost to Houston in the Armed Forces Bowl, 34-28)*

**Coach:** Troy Calhoun
3rd year (17-9)
**Career record:** 17-9
**Offensive coordinator:**
Clay Hendrix (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Tim DeRuyter (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Falcon Stadium (46,692)
**Tickets:** 800-666-USAF
**Site:** Colorado Springs, Colo.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.goairforcefalcons.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 7 | Tim Jefferson (6-0, 200, So.) |
| RB | 17 | Asher Clark (5-8, 185, So.) |
| FB | 42 | Jared Tew (6-0, 210, Jr.) |
| LOT | 59 | Ryan Gonzales (6-3, 255, Sr.) |
| LOG | 57 | Nick Charles (6-4, 285, Sr.) |
| C | 65 | Michael Hampton (6-2, 260, Sr.) |
| ROG | 62 | Peter Lusk (6-3, 270, Sr.) |
| ROT | 60 | Chris Campbell (6-3, 270, Sr.) |
| TE | 81 | Sean Quintana (6-2, 200, Sr.) |
| WR | 83 | Kevin Fogler (6-5, 205, Jr.) |
| WR | 4 | Kyle Halderman (5-11, 175, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 51 | Myles Morales (6-3, 250, Sr) |
| NG | 93 | Ben Garland (6-5, 275, Sr.) |
| RDE | 90 | Rick Ricketts (6-3, 260, Jr.) |
| LOLB | 36 | Andre Morris, Jr. (6-3, 235, Jr.) |
| LILB | 47 | Ken Lamendola (6-2, 230, Jr.) |
| RILB | 43 | Justin Moore (5-11, 225, Sr.) |
| ROLB | 44 | Patrick Hennessey (6-2, 215, Jr.) |
| LCB | 5 | Anthony Wright (5-10, 190, So.) |
| RCB | 8 | Reggie Rembert (5-7, 175, Jr.) |
| FS | 16 | Jon Davis (6-1, 190, So.) |
| SS | 34 | Chris Thomas (5-11, 205, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 94 | Zach Bell (6-2, 180, Jr.) |
| P | 98 | Brandon Geyer (6-4, 200, Sr.) |

# 5 COLORADO STATE RAMS

The Rams had the biggest turnaround in the Mountain West Conference last year, going from 3-9 in 2007 to 7-6 in Steve Fairchild's first year as coach. The seven victories were the most by a first-year coach in school history.

Colorado State even found its way to a bowl game, beating Fresno State 40-35 in the New Mexico Bowl.

This season, the challenge for Fairchild is to build on his initial success in a league that is talented at the top. To do so, he is counting on veteran players to perform at a higher level and be more consistent in 2009.

Expect junior running back John Mosure to take the pressure off the quarterback. Serving as the backup to Gartrell Johnson (who exhausted his eligibility), Mosure averaged 4.1 yards per carry in 2008 and finished with 122 rushing yards and two touchdowns. He will team with junior fullback Zac Pauga, who had 19 receptions last season.

Whoever plays quarterback among Grant Stucker, Klay Kubiak and Jon Eastman will also have a reliable option at wide receiver.

Second-team All-Mountain West wideout Rashaun Greer had 63 catches for three touchdowns last year, and looks to improve upon those numbers this fall.

The Rams' offensive line will get a boost from the experience of seniors Cole Pemberton (left tackle), Tim Walter (center), Adrian Martinez (right guard) and Shelley Smith (left guard).

Defensively, Colorado State needs to work on lowering the number of points it surrenders in each contest. Last year, CSU's opponents averaged 30.2 points per game.

In hopes of bucking the trend, Fairchild will rely heavily on linebacker Mychal Sisson and Ricky Brewer.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| S.5 | @COLORADO | 17-38 |

This emotional rivalry returns to campus sites after being played nine times in the past 11 years in Denver. If the Rams can slow Colorado's offense, they'll be sitting well for the rest of their schedule.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.12 | Weber State | |
| S.19 | Nevada | |
| S.26 | @BRIGHAM YOUNG | 42-45 |
| 0.3 | @IDAHO | |
| 0.10 | Utah | 16-49 |
| 0.17 | @TCU | 7-13 |
| 0.24 | San Diego State | 38-34 |
| 0.31 | Air Force | 17-38 |
| N.7 | @UNLV | 41-28 |
| N.21 | @NEW MEXICO | 20-6 |
| N.27 | Wyoming | 31-20 |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 7-6
**Mountain West:** 4-4
*(beat Fresno State in the New Mexico Bowl, 40-35)*

**Coach:** Steve Fairchild
2nd year (7-6)
**Career record:** 7-6
**Offensive coordinator:**
Greg Peterson (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Larry Kerr (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Sonny Lubick Field at Hughes Stadium (34,400)
**Tickets:** 800-491-RAMS
**Site:** Fort Collins
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.csurams.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 18 | Grant Stucker (6-2, 207, Sr.) |
| FB | 36 | Zac Pauga (6-0, 242, Jr.) |
| RB | 7 | John Mosure (5-10, 202, Jr.) |
| LOT | 53 | Cole Pemberton (6-7, 316, Sr.) |
| LOG | 74 | Shelley Smith (6-4, 293, Sr.) |
| C | 57 | Tim Walter (6-6, 290, Sr.) |
| ROG | 60 | Adrian Martinez (6-4, 303, Sr.) |
| ROT | 78 | Mark Starr (6-5, 282, Jr.) |
| TE | 45 | Eric Peitz (6-5, 250, Jr.) |
| WR | 84 | Rashaun Greer (6-1, 203, Sr.) |
| WR | 31 | Dion Morton (5-10, 163, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 24 | Cory Macon (6-6, 239, Jr.) |
| LDT | 33 | Sevaro Johnson (6-3, 297, Sr.) |
| RDT | 46 | Ty Whittier (6-5, 270, Jr.) |
| RDE | 90 | Sam Stewart (6-3, 250, Sr.) |
| SLB | 56 | Ricky Brewer (6-2, 207, Jr.) |
| MLB | 51 | Alex Williams (6-2, 220, Jr.) |
| WLB | 6 | Mychal Sisson (5-11, 201, So.) |
| LCB | 11 | Nick Oppenneer (5-10, 176, Sr.) |
| RCB | 30 | Gerard Thomas (5-9, 166, So.) |
| FS | 22 | Elijah-Blu Smith (5-11, 181, So.) |
| SS | 20 | Klint Kubiak (6-0, 202, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 14 | Ben DeLine (6-0, 166, So.) |
| P | 14 | Ben DeLine (6-0, 166, So.) |

# UNLV REBELS 6

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Sacramento State | |
| S.12 | Oregon State | |
| S.19 | Hawaii | |
| S.26 | @WYOMING | 22-14 |
| 0.3 | @NEVADA | 27-49 |
| 0.10 | Brigham Young | 35-42 |
| 0.17 | Utah | 21-42 |
| 0.24 | @NEW MEXICO | 27-20 |
| 0.31 | @TCU | 14-44 |
| N.7 | Colorado State | 28-41 |
| N.14 | @AIR FORCE | 28-29 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.28 San Diego State 21-42**

The Rebels have a late-season bye and this game, like last year, may be for bowl eligibility.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7
**Mountain West:** 2-6

**Coach:** Mike Sanford
5th year (11-36)
**Career record:** 11-36
**Offensive coordinator:**
Todd Berry (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Dennis Therrell (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Sam Boyd Stadium (36,800)
**Tickets:** 702-739-FANS
**Site:** Las Vegas
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.unlvrebels.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 12 | Omar Clayton (6-1, 200, Jr.) |
| RB | 3 | C.J. Cox (5-11, 195, So.) |
| LOT | 75 | Matt Murphy (6-4, 300, Jr.) |
| LOG | 63 | Sean Tesoro (6-2, 290, Fr.) |
| C | 66 | John Gianninoto (6-3, 290, Jr.) |
| ROG | 59 | Joe Hawley (6-3, 310, Sr.) |
| ROT | 73 | Evan Marchal (6-7, 300, Jr.) |
| TE | 44 | Kyle Watkins (6-2, 240, So.) |
| WR | 88 | Ryan Wolfe (6-2, 210, Sr.) |
| WR | 18 | Phillip Payne (6-3, 200, So.) |
| WR | 84 | Rodelin Anthony (6-5, 230, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 99 | Isaako Aaitui (6-3, 300, Jr.) |
| LDT | 68 | Martin Tevaseu (6-2, 340, Sr.) |
| RDT | 93 | Malo Taumua (6-1, 270, Jr.) |
| RDE | 53 | Matt Kravetz (6-1, 245, So.) |
| SLB | 14 | Starr Fuimaono (5-11, 210, Sr.) |
| MLB | 56 | Ronnie Paulo (6-1, 240, Jr.) |
| WLB | 33 | Jason Beauchamp (6-3, 235, Sr.) |
| LCB | 26 | Deante' Purvis (5-10, 185, So.) |
| RCB | 20 | Kenny Brown (5-9, 160, So.) |
| FS | 9 | Travis Dixon (6-0, 190, Jr.) |
| SS | 10 | Quinton Pointer (5-9, 185, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 37 | Kyle Watson (5-9, 215, Sr.) |
| P | 13 | Brendon Lamers (5-11, 190, Sr.) |

For many programs, five wins is a bad season. But at UNLV, it was cause for celebration, as beleaguered coach Mike Sanford finally got over the two-win hump for the first time in four years.

This fall, the Rebels could take the next step by producing a winning record and earning a bowl invitation. The Rebels have the right parts to make it happen with quarterback Omar Clayton, who has recovered from a knee injury that ended his '08 season early. He is the kind of athlete Sanford needs to run his spread offense.

Clayton has three inviting targets in all-conference receiver Ryan Wolfe (88 receptions in '08), Phillip Payne (29) and Rodelin Anthony (17). The trio makes up arguably the best receiver corps in the league, and they will put a lot of pressure on opposing secondaries. The Rebels also have a solid offensive line, which is anchored by guard Joe Hawley and left tackle Matt Murphy.

Replacing running back Frank Summers is a concern but C.J. Cox, Imari Thompson, Channing Trotter and Chris Brogdon will all get a chance to win the job.

Defensively, UNLV's front seven will be competitive, as linebackers Jason Beauchamp and Starr Fuimaono and linemen Malo Taumua and Martin Tevaseu are effective run stoppers. Fuimaono missed all but two games last season with a knee injury and hopes to return to his 2007 form.

The secondary is an issue, but Sanford recruited eight defensive backs, including junior-college transfer Kenny Brown. And if Quinton Pointer recovers from the shoulder surgery that kept him out of spring drills, the Rebels will have at least one experienced hand in the defensive backfield.

# NEW MEXICO LOBOS 7

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @TEXAS A&M | 22-28 |
| S.12 | Tulsa | 14-56 |
| S.19 | Air Force | 10-23 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.26 New Mexico State 35-24**

Not only does this matchup feature the Lobos' in-state rival, but they'll have two weeks to prepare for it thanks to a bye. It will give them a chance to work out any kinks from a tough first three games.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0.3 | @TEXAS TECH | |
| 0.10 | @WYOMING | 24-0 |
| 0.24 | UNLV | 20-27 |
| 0.31 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | 70-7 |
| N.7 | @UTAH | 10-13 |
| N.14 | Brigham Young | 3-21 |
| N.21 | Colorado State | 6-20 |
| N.28 | @TCU | 3-26 |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 4-8
**Mountain West:** 2-6

**Coach:** Mike Locksley, 1st year

**Offensive coordinator:**

Darrell Dickey (1st year)

**Defensive coordinator:**

Doug Mallory (1st year)

**Stadium:** University Stadium (38,634)
**Tickets:** 505-925-5626
**Site:** Albuquerque
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.golobos.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 10 | Brad Gruner (6-2, 217, So) |
| RB | 13 | James Wright (5-11, 235, So.) |
| LOT | 74 | Byron Bell (6-5, 315, So.) |
| LOG | 56 | Mike Cannon (6-3, 295, Jr.) |
| C | 69 | Erik Cook (6-6, 315, Sr.) |
| ROG | 66 | Joshua Taufalele (6-2, 310, Sr.) |
| ROT | 78 | Ivan Hernandez (6-6, 295, Sr.) |
| TE | 97 | Lucas Reed (6-6, 215, r-Fr.) |
| WR | 8 | Roland Bruno (5-10, 166, Sr.) |
| WR | 7 | Bryant Williams (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| WR | 16 | Chris Hernandez (6-3, 191, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 98 | DeAndre Davis (6-2, 252, Sr.) |
| LDT | 53 | Kendall Briscoe (6-2, 285, Sr.) |
| RDT | 93 | Peter Gardner (6-4, 295, Jr.) |
| RDE | 88 | Johnathan Rainey (6-2, 225, So.) |
| LOLB | 11 | Clint McPeek (6-1, 227, Sr.) |
| MLB | 58 | Carmen Messina (6-2, 210, So.) |
| ROLB | 55 | Tray Hardaway (6-0, 215, Sr.) |
| LCB | 38 | Edrick Boger (5-11, 170, r-Fr.) |
| RCB | 6 | Anthony Hooks (5-11, 170, So.) |
| FS | 96 | Frankie Solomon (5-10, 180, sr.) |
| SS | 30 | Ian Clark (6-0, 210, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 12 | James Aho (5-9, 175, So.) |
| P | 14 | Adam Miller (6-2, 235, Sr.) |

After 11 years of Rocky Long as its coach, New Mexico has opted to go in a different direction.

The program underachieved last year and went 4-8 overall, 2-6 in the Mountain West and finished tied for sixth place.

Enter new coach Mike Locksley and the Lobos' slogan after his hire—"New Era, New Energy, New Mexico."

Locksley, who was the offensive coordinator at Illinois prior to his arrival in Albuquerque, will try to open things up and play a fast-tempo game.

To achieve that, he'll rely on quarterback Brad Gruner, running back James Wright and receivers Bryant Williams, Chris Hernandez and Roland Bruno. The receiving trio combined for 93 catches last year and should have more opportunities in Locksley's system.

Up front, three starting offensive linemen return, led by senior center Erik Cook. Guard Joshua Taufalele and tackle Byron Bell also anchor a line that should be able to hold its own against most opponents.

New Mexico's defense will have a new look in a 4-3 scheme. Only three starters return, so if ever there was a time to start fresh, this is it.

Locksley wants to get more athletic and attack more, so look for additional blitzing and gambling from the Lobos, who had just 21 sacks last season.

New Mexico should also be strong on special teams. Sophomore James Aho proved to be a reliable placekicker, making all 24 extra-point attempts and connecting on 18 of 24 field-goal tries a year ago. Senior Adam Miller averaged 39.8 yards a punt as a junior.

If the Lobos hope to land one of the Mountain West's five bowl bids in 2009, Locksley has a lot of work to do on both sides of the ball.

# 8 SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS

When a team goes 2-10, there's only one direction to head. So first-year coach Brady Hoke's mandate is clear: The Aztecs must move forward, because it's hard to imagine 2009 being worse than 2008.

Luckily for Hoke, San Diego State showed progress late last year when the team came up with its best effort of the season and beat UNLV 42-21 to squash the Rebels' postseason eligibility. Though it wasn't enough to save Chuck Long's job, Hoke will make sure there are no more steps backward.

His first task was to get on the recruiting trail, and the signing class was all about skill-position players on offense and the back seven on defense. The Aztecs did not ink any linemen on either side of the ball with their 20 signees in February. So Hoke is prepared to go to war with what he inherited.

Also, he didn't sign a single junior-college player, a radical departure for the Aztecs. Hoke wants to build a solid foundation and he's going the freshman route to do so, which means there'll be a few lumps along the way. But the move should pay off down the road.

Until then, Hoke and offensive line coach Darrell Funk will put their faith in a line that allowed 21 sacks last year.

Of course, if the Aztecs can run the ball, perhaps quarterback Ryan Lindley won't be targeted as often. That means running back Atiyyah Henderson must improve on his 44.5 yards per game average from a year ago. The same goes for Brandon Sullivan, who averaged just 23.1 yards per game last season.

One positive on offense is receiver Vincent Brown (64 catches, 5 TDs).

The defense needs to get tougher, too. San Diego State was bullied by opponents in crunch time, getting outscored 146-43 in the fourth quarter last year.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @UCLA | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.12 Southern Utah**

After losing 29-27 to Cal Poly in last year's season opener, Brady Hoke and his Aztecs better not stumble against very beatable Southern Utah.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.19 | @IDAHO | 45-17 |
| S.26 | @AIR FORCE | 10-35 |
| O.3 | New Mexico State | |
| O.17 | Brigham Young | 12-41 |
| O.24 | @COLORADO STATE | 34-38 |
| O.31 | New Mexico | 7-70 |
| N.7 | TCU | 7-41 |
| N.14 | Wyoming | 10-35 |
| N.21 | @UTAH | 14-63 |
| N.28 | @UNLV | 42-21 |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 2-10
**Mountain West:** 1-7

**Coach:** Brady Hoke, 1st year
**Career record:** 34-38
**Offensive coordinator:** Al Borges (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:** Rocky Long (1st year)

**Stadium:** Qualcomm Stadium (54,000)
**Tickets:** 619-283-SDSU
**Site:** San Diego
**Official athletic Web site:** www.goaztecs.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 14 | Ryan Lindley (6-3, 205, So.) |
| FB | 20 | Matt Kawulok (6-2, 245, Sr.) |
| RB | 6 | Atiyyah Henderson (5-9, 180, Sr.) |
| LOT | 62 | Peter Nelson (6-5, 285, Sr.) |
| LOG | 53 | Emilio Rivera (6-4, 330, So.) |
| C | 50 | Trask Iosefa (6-0, 315, Jr.) |
| ROG | 67 | Ikaika Aken-Moleta (6-2, 305, Sr.) |
| ROT | 79 | Kurtis Gunther (6-8, 280, So.) |
| TE | 41 | Tony DeMartinis (6-5, 260, Sr.) |
| WR | 1 | DeMarco Sampson (6-2, 210, Sr.) |
| WR | 80 | Vincent Brown (6-0, 185, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 94 | Jerome Long (6-5, 250, So.) |
| NT | 56 | Jonathan Soto (6-3, 370, Sr.) |
| RDE | 90 | B.J. Williams (6-3, 250, Jr.) |
| SLB | 40 | Zach Shapiro (6-2, 250, Sr.) |
| MLB | 35 | Luke Laolagi (6-1, 230, Sr.) |
| WLB | 22 | Andrew Preston (6-1, 225, Jr.) |
| LCB | 24 | Kwincy Edwards (5-11, 265, Sr.) |
| RCB | 2 | Davion Mauldin (5-10, 175, Sr.) |
| S | 4 | Romeo Horn (6-0, 185, Jr.) |
| S | 42 | Nick Sandford (6-2, 210, Sr.) |
| S | 5 | Dey Juan Hemmings (5-11, 195, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 88 | Lan Yoshida (5-10, 195, Sr.) |
| P | 14 | Brian Stahovich (6-0, 170, So.) |

# 9 WYOMING COWBOYS

Former coach Joe Glenn had a great start during his tenure at Wyoming but couldn't sustain success. Now, it's Dave Christensen's turn to get the Cowboys back on track.

The former offensive coordinator at Missouri has a problem right off the bat.

Who will be his quarterback?

It could be the inconsistent veteran Karsten Sween or junior Dax Crum, who played in eight games last year. Or perhaps one of the two newcomers—junior-college transfer Robert Benjamin or incoming freshman Austyn Carta-Samuels—could win the job.

Whoever it is will need to navigate the intricacies of Christensen's version of the spread offense.

The offensive learning curve figures to be a long one, so if Wyoming hopes to compete, it will have to rely on its strength—the defense.

That unit, which returns eight starters, will boast two of the league's top linemen in second-team All-MWC tackle John Fletcher and senior end Mitch Unrein, an honorable-mention pick.

Safety Chris Prosinski (3 INTs) will lead the secondary and the Gipson brothers, Marcell and Tashaun, should lock down the cornerback spots. Weston Johnson (78 tackles) and Gabe Knapton (92) are back at linebacker.

Sophomore punter Austin McCoy was serviceable last year, averaging 37.9 yards a boot and placing 13 of his kicks inside the opponents' 20-yard line.

Christensen has the components to create excitement on the field, as Missouri was one of the nation's highest-scoring teams the past couple of years.

But until he can figure out his quarterback dilemma, don't expect any fireworks in Laramie.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Weber State | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.12 Texas**

It's rare when a football powerhouse comes to Laramie, but the Longhorns will show Wyoming how to play real football.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.19 | @COLORADO | |
| S.26 | UNLV | 14-22 |
| O.3 | @FLORIDA ATLANTIC | |
| O.10 | New Mexico | 0-24 |
| O.17 | @AIR FORCE | 3-23 |
| O.31 | @UTAH | 7-40 |
| N.7 | Brigham Young | 0-44 |
| N.14 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | 35-10 |
| N.21 | TCU | 7-54 |
| N.27 | @COLORADO STATE | 20-31 |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 4-8
**Mountain West:** 1-7

**Coach:** Dave Christensen, 1st year
**Offensive coordinator:** Marcus Arroyo (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:** Marty English (1st year)

**Stadium:** Jonah Field at War Memorial Stadium (32,580)
**Tickets:** 800-922-9461
**Site:** Laramie
**Official athletic Web site:** www.wyomingathletics.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 16 | Karsten Sween (6-2, 229, Sr.) |
| RB | 26 | Darius Terry (5-11, 209, Jr.) |
| LOT | 71 | Ryan Otterson (6-5, 275, Sr.) |
| LOG | 75 | Sam Sterner (6-4, 302, Jr.) |
| C | 70 | Russ Arnold (6-4, 289, Sr.) |
| ROG | 57 | Jack Tennant (6-4, 305, Jr.) |
| ROT | 72 | Clayton Kirven (6-6, 310, So.) |
| TE | 85 | Jesson Salyards (6-5, 235, Sr.) |
| WR | 84 | Greg Bolling (6-2, 180, Sr.) |
| WR | 22 | Brandon Stewart (5-11, 193, So.) |
| WR | 33 | David Leonard (6-4, 197, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DE | 98 | Mitch Unrein (6-4, 270, Sr.) |
| DT | 91 | John Fletcher (6-6, 272, Sr.) |
| NG | 90 | Fred Givens (6-0, 305, Sr.) |
| DE | 37 | Matt Barella (6-2, 228, Sr.) |
| SLB | 36 | Weston Johnson (6-3, 233, Sr.) |
| MLB | 52 | Gabe Knapton (6-3, 238, So.) |
| WLB | 8 | Brian Hendricks (6-1, 223, So.) |
| LCB | 4 | Tashaun Gipson (6-0, 190, So.) |
| RCB | 2 | Marcell Gipson (5-10, 178, Jr.) |
| FS | 24 | Chris Prosinski (6-1, 208, Jr.) |
| SS | 19 | Jamichael Hall (6-2, 190, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 21 | Jake Scott (5-8, 160, Sr.) |
| P | 28 | Austin McCoy (6-3, 195, So.) |

## ALL-MAC

### OFFENSE

| | |
|---|---|
| QB | Tim Hiller, Sr., Western Michigan |
| RB | MiQuale Lewis, Sr., Ball State |
| RB | James Starks, Jr., Buffalo |
| OL | Shane Steffy, Sr., Bowling Green |
| OL | Jason Onyebuagu, Sr., Northern Illinois |
| OL | Eddie Adamski, Sr., Northern Illinois |
| OL | Phillip Swanson, Sr., Western Michigan |
| OL | Eric Davis, Jr., Eastern Michigan |
| TE | Jimmy Scheidler, Sr., Bowling Green |
| WR | Naaman Roosevelt, Sr., Buffalo |
| WR | Antonio Brown, Jr., Central Michigan |

### DEFENSE

| | |
|---|---|
| DL | Andre Neblett, Sr., Temple |
| DL | Brandon Crawford, Sr., Ball State |
| DL | Almondo Sewell, Jr., Akron |
| DL | Frank Zombo, Sr., Central Michigan |
| LB | Austin Pritchard, Sr., Western Michigan |
| LB | Nick Bellore, Jr., Central Michigan |
| LB | Noah Keller, Jr., Ohio |
| DB | Brian Lainhart, Jr., Kent State |
| DB | Davonte Shannon, Jr., Buffalo |
| DB | Barry Church, Sr., Toledo |
| DB | Steven Jackson, Sr., Ohio |

### SPECIALISTS

| | |
|---|---|
| K | Mike Salerno, Sr., Northern Illinois |
| P | Zach Johnson, Sr., Eastern Michigan |

## FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

**1** The MAC will produce a new top-flight quarterback this season. While the best of the group are Western Michigan's Tim Hiller, Central Michigan's Dan LeFevour and Bowling Green's Tyler Sheehan, the league's MVP could be someone who begins this fall off the radar.

**2** Temple will get a bowl bid this season, in turn making heads spin in the Big East, which booted the Owls from the league just five years ago.

**3** One of the league's highly regarded young coaches will move on to a BCS program. Will it be Central Michigan's Butch Jones, Buffalo's Turner Gill or perhaps Al Golden of Temple?

**4** Seven MAC schools play their first games of the season against a BCS school. Touted as the underdogs, look for three of them to upset a big-time program.

# Coaching staffs finding MAC to be a giant revolving door

**By John Wagner,** *correspondent*

Having to replace players is a fact of life in college football. Coaches come and go, too.

But the number of coaching losses around the Mid-American Conference turned some heads, as five of the league's members replaced coaches in the offseason.

Still, some changes were expected. For example, Eastern Michigan replaced Jeff Genyk after the Eagles posted a 3-9 record, the school's fifth losing season under Genyk.

The situations were similar at Toledo and Miami, two programs with a recent history of success caught in a downturn that wasn't acceptable.

However, Bowling Green was a surprise. Gregg Brandon was let go despite a 6-6 finish, including an upset victory at Pittsburgh. But that win occurred in the season opener, which led to sky-high expectations that were never realized.

Ball State also left people scratching their heads. Granted, it was no shock that Brady Hoke left his alma mater after lifting the Cardinals to 12th in the national polls last year. But Hoke made a lateral career move by going to San Diego State, a program that hasn't had a winning season since 1998.

The biggest surprise in the MAC, however, wasn't a coaching change, but the lack of one. Buffalo's Turner Gill was passed over by BCS schools despite guiding the Bulls—one of the most downtrodden programs in college football history—to victory in the MAC Championship Game and earning the school's first-ever bowl bid in the process.

All these changes signal two things.

One: The moves made by Bowling Green, Toledo and Miami indicate that "good" won't cut it anymore and "bad" is unacceptable.

And two: Did BCS schools pass on Gill because he wasn't the best candidate, or because lifting Buffalo's program to the top of the MAC isn't that impressive?

If it's the latter, then that's bad news for a league struggling for respect among the big-time conferences.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Jeremy Crabtree, *Rivals.com*

**1. KENT STATE** The Golden Flashes signed one four-star prospect and five three-star newcomers.
**2. AKRON** The Zips have always recruited well and know how to find talent.
**3. OHIO** Frank Solich and his staff did a nice job recruiting locally.
**4. TOLEDO** The Rockets landed one four-star player and one three-star recruit.
**5. MIAMI UNIVERSITY** The new staff transformed a subpar class into one of the league's best.
**6. WESTERN MICHIGAN** The Broncos always do a great job finding speed and skill in Florida.
**7. NORTHERN ILLINOIS** To win, the Huskies must keep some of the top Illinois players away from the lower-level Big Ten and rival MAC programs, and they took a step forward with that this year.
**8. CENTRAL MICHIGAN** The Chippewas do a tremendous job of finding local players who play their style of ball and are winners.
**9. EASTERN MICHIGAN** The Eagles could be a regional recruiting force to deal with in the future.
**10. BALL STATE** The coaching change lost Ball State its mojo late in the recruiting process.
**11. BOWLING GREEN** The Falcons have too much tradition to remain at the bottom for long.
**12. BUFFALO** Turner Gill wasn't able to capitalize on a great 2008 season.
**13. TEMPLE** Even though Temple finished at the bottom, this class was another step forward for the Owls.

## ASCENDING

**BUFFALO** The rise of the Bulls from one of the worst programs in Division I history to a bowl participant last season was astounding. The team has a good chance to repeat that success this year.

## DESCENDING

**MIAMI (OH)** Miami had a 2-10 record last year, the second time in three seasons the RedHawks have put up a losing mark. The last time before that the program had a record under .500? Try 1993.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

## MID-AMERICAN

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

### EAST

1. Buffalo
2. Bowling Green
3. Temple
4. Ohio
5. Miami (Ohio)
6. Akron
7. Kent State

### WEST

1. Western Michigan
2. Central Michigan
3. Northern Illinois
4. Ball State
5. Toledo
6. Eastern Michigan

## RATING THE PLAYERS

**Fastest Receiver**
Stephen Williams, Toledo

**Best Hands**
Antonio Brown, WR, Central Michigan

**Best Passing QB**
Tim Hiller, Western Michigan

**Best Running QB**
Dan LeFevour, Central Michigan

**Most Elusive RB**
James Starks, Buffalo

**Best Instincts**
Barry Church, S, Toledo

**Best Athlete**
Naaman Roosevelt, WR, Buffalo

**Best Under Pressure**
Mike Salerno, K, Northern Illinois

**Top NFL Prospect**
Antonio Brown, WR, Central Michigan

**Top Impact Freshman**
Darius Willis, QB, Buffalo

**Hardest Hitter**
Nick Bellore, LB, Central Michigan

**Biggest Underachiever**
Aaron Opelt, QB, Toledo

**Best Home-Field Advantage**
Northern Illinois

**Best Fans**
Central Michigan

**Best Mascot**
Charlie Cardinal, Ball State

**Best Stadium**
Glass Bowl, Toledo

MAC EAST PRESEASON RANK

# 1 BUFFALO BULLS

Turner Gill's rebuilding job at Buffalo is almost complete. So far, Gill's work has been impressive, as he's created a MAC champion out of a program that for years had been a league doormat. How bad were things for the Bulls? Last year's eight-win campaign gave Buffalo 16 victories in the past four seasons.

To win the MAC last year, the Bulls first claimed the East Division title and then knocked off an undefeated Ball State team that was ranked 12th nationally. The title propelled Buffalo to the school's first-ever bowl (International), with the Bulls falling to Connecticut 38-20 in Toronto.

What's left to accomplish? Well, perhaps the most difficult step—maintaining success.

The Bulls also have to quiet some doubters who realized the team's run to a championship wasn't smooth. It took a Hail Mary pass on the game's final play to beat Temple, and three of the league victories were in extra time, including a four-overtime win at Akron and a comeback victory at Bowling Green (2 OTs).

Six starters are back on offense, including first-team All-MAC honorees in tailback James Starks and receiver Naaman Roosevelt. Starks finished third in the MAC with 1,333 yards and 16 touchdowns last year despite missing three games with injuries. Roosevelt caught 104 passes for a league-best 1,402 yards and 13 scores.

Joining Roosevelt at wideout is Brett Hamlin (38 catches, 459 yards, 5 TDs), and tight end Jesse Rack also returns.

One question the offense must answer is who will replace Drew Willy at quarterback. Among the options are sophomore Zach Maynard and redshirt freshman Jerry Davis.

Buffalo must also make adjustments to the offensive line, where the Bulls lost three starters, including All-MAC guard Jeff Niedermier. The two linemen left are guard Peter Bittner and tackle Andrew West. Jordan Jerrold, who missed '08 with a knee injury, is expected to push for the open tackle spot.

The defense returns nine starters from a group that created a conference-high 34 turnovers last year. However, that unit also surrendered 408.2 yards per game, 10th in the MAC.

Buffalo is deep at safety, where All-MAC performers Davonte Shannon and Mike Newton return.

There also is depth at cornerback, as senior Kendric Hawkins and juniors Domonic Cook and Josh Thomas are all back. Another junior, Sherrod Lott, served as the team's nickel corner last season and finished seventh on the team in tackles.

While the Bulls are young at linebacker, they return three regulars in Raphael Akobundu (71 tackles), Justin Winters and Scott Pettigrew. Winters finished with a team-best 125 tackles in 2008 and was voted third-team All-MAC.

With only one returning starter, Anel Montanez, the defensive line is near bottom.

Junior kicker A.J. Principe (12 field goals) and sophomore punter Peter Fardon, a 27-year-old native of Australia who averaged 39.1 yards per punt, will strengthen the special-teams unit.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***DARIUS WILLIS, LB***

As soon as this freshman (who was a highly regarded quarterback in high school) gets comfortable playing defense, he'll be on the field. And it shouldn't take long for him to learn his way around.

JAMES STARKS » RB

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-6 **MAC:** 5-3
*(lost to Connecticut in the International Bowl, 38-20)*

**Coach:** Turner Gill, 4th year (15-23)
**Career record:** 15-23
**Offensive coordinator:**
Danny Barrett (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Fred Reed (2nd year)

**Stadium:** University of Buffalo Stadium (29,013)
**Tickets:** 716-645-6666
**Site:** Buffalo, N.Y.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.buffalobulls.com

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @UTEP | 42-17 |
| S.12 | Pittsburgh | 16-27 |
| S.19 | @UCF | |
| S.26 | @TEMPLE | 30-28 |
| 0.3 | Central Michigan | 25-27 |
| 0.10 | Gardner-Webb | |
| 0.17 | Akron | 43-40 (OT) |
| 0.24 | @WESTERN MICHIGAN | 28-34 (OT) |
| N.3 | Bowling Green | 40-34 (OT) |
| N.10 | Ohio | 32-19 |
| N.18 | @MIAMI (OH) | 37-17 |
| N.27 | @KENT STATE | 21-24 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

The Bulls want to avenge last year's heartbreaker against the Chippewas. Buffalo cut the deficit to two and then recovered the onside kick, only to have a field goal bounce off the upright as time expired.

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL
» INTERNATIONAL BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
» Program is shedding the bottom-feeder label, as Starks and Roosevelt are strengthening the skill positions.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 6 | Zach Maynard (6-3, 185, So.) |
| TB | 19 | James Starks (6-2, 211, Sr.) |
| FB | 27 | Brandon Thermilus (5-11, 224, Jr.) |
| LOT | 72 | Andrew West (6-6, 314, Sr.) |
| LOG | 73 | Peter Bittner (6-4, 301, Jr.) |
| C | 69 | Josh Voilanti (6-2, 264, So.) |
| ROG | 76 | Matt Bacoulis (6-3, 316, Sr.) |
| ROT | 77 | Jordan Jerrold (6-8, 307, Jr.) |
| TE | 82 | Jesse Rack (6-3, 236, Sr.) |
| WR | 18 | Naaman Roosevelt (6-0, 187, Sr.) |
| WR | 88 | Brett Hamlin (6-1, 190, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 53 | Jerry Housey (6-0, 24, Jr.) |
| LDT | 74 | Anel Montanez (5-11, 290, Jr.) |
| RDT | 92 | Dane Robinson (6-2, 267, Sr.) |
| RDE | 52 | Tom Drewes (6-1, 249, So.) |
| LB | 33 | Scott Pettigrew (6-2, 210, So.) |
| LB | 34 | Justin Winters (5-11, 202, Jr.) |
| LCB | 12 | Kendric Hawkins (5-10, 184, Sr.) |
| RCB | 25 | Domonic Cook (5-8, 187, Jr.) |
| NCB | 14 | Josh Thomas (5-10, 180, Jr.) |
| S | 20 | Mike Newton (5-11, 200, Jr.) |
| S | 7 | Davonte Shannon (6-0, 193, Jr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 13 | A.J. Principe (5-8, 154, Jr.) |
| P | 56 | Peter Fardon (6-1, 180, So.) |

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1** **Matt Jones** *DE, 6-1, 220*
Jones is undersized but has an unstoppable motor and is a leader. Coming off a year in prep school, he'll make a quick impact.

**2** **Branden Oliver** *RB, 5-7, 185*
Oliver may be one of the biggest steals in the country. Though he lacks ideal height, Oliver has great speed and a sturdy frame.

**3** **Fred Lee** *WR, 6-1, 185*
Lee is an athletic receiver who had a big senior year with 70 catches for 1,010 yards and 14 touchdowns.

**4** **Carlos Lammons** *CB, 5-10, 180*
Lammons has good speed and comes from one of the most proven programs in Florida, Pahokee High.

**5** **Peter Gagliardi** *TE, 6-2, 219*
Gagliardi is a tight end with soft hands and will be a terrific receiving threat against MAC opponents.

CHARLES LECLAIRE / GETTY IMAGES

## 2 BOWLING GREEN FALCONS

The good news for Bowling Green is 12 starters return from last season when the Falcons tied for second in the MAC East.

The bad news is those returnees will need to produce more in 2009 for Bowling Green to break through to the top spot in the division.

For example, senior quarterback Tyler Sheehan has plenty of experience and was third-team All-MAC as a sophomore, but he needs to increase last year's 20 touchdowns and decrease the nine interceptions.

There's also talent at tailback with Chris Bullock, Willie Geter and Jason Rice all returning. But none of them gained more than 400 yards last season, and one will need to show he can be counted on full time.

Receiver Freddie Barnes will give Sheehan a top-flight target after catching 40 passes for 355 yards in an injury-plagued season.

However, the Falcons' defense suffered significant losses, particularly on the line. Three starters were lost to graduation and the lone returnee, Mike Ream, was dismissed for violating team rules.

The linebacking corps was also hit hard, with senior Jerett Sanderson the only starter back. Sanderson is adept in pass coverage, as the former safety had a pair of interceptions and broke up eight passes last season.

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|
| S.3 | Troy |

**GAME TO WATCH**
**S.12 @MISSOURI**
The Falcons toppled then-No. 25 Pitt last year. A win over a tough Tigers squad would put the '09 campaign on the right track.

| | |
|---|---|
| S.19 | @MARSHALL |
| S.26 | Boise State |
| 0.3 | Ohio |
| 0.10 | @KENT STATE |
| 0.17 | @BALL STATE |
| 0.24 | Central Michigan |
| N.3 | @BUFFALO |
| N.12 | @MIAMI (OH) |
| N.20 | Akron |
| N.27 | Toledo |

LOWER TIER BOWL

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» GMAC BOWL

### QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 6-6 **MAC:** 4-4

**Coach:** Dave Clawson, 1st year
**Offensive coord.:** Warren Ruggiero (1st year)
**Defensive coords.:** Shannon Morrison (1st year), Mike Elko (1st year)

**Stadium:** Doyt L. Perry Stadium (23,529)
**Tickets:** 419-372-0000 **Site:** Bowling Green, Ohio
**Official athletic Web site:** www.bgsufalcons.com

## 3 TEMPLE OWLS

The Owls collected five victories in 2008, the program's highest total in 18 seasons. To keep its momentum, Temple must find replacements for center Alex Derenthal, a second-team All-MAC performer last year, and quarterback Adam DiMichele.

Candidates to fill DiMichele's spot include junior Vaughn Charlton, who saw action in seven games in 2007 but redshirted last season, and sophomore Chester Stewart, who made three starts last year.

Sophomore Wayne Tribue will move from left guard to center to replace Derenthal and anchor a young but experienced line. Senior Devin Tyler, junior Marcus Brown and sophomores Pat Boyle and John Palumbo all have starting experience.

The top returnees at tailback include senior Lamar McPherson and sophomore Ahkeem Smith. Jason Harper (33 catches, 571 yards) and Dy'Onne Crudup (15, 214) will lead the receiving corps.

Because of the uncertainty of the offense, Temple will rely on a defense that returns nine starters and a number of other players with experience.

The defensive line's strength will come from second-team All-MAC nose tackle Andre Neblett. Fellow senior Brian Sanford is back at end, while junior Elisha Joseph and sophomore Adrian Robinson saw extensive action last fall.

Senior two-year starter Alex Joseph heads the linebacking unit in the middle after making 87 tackles last fall.

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|
| S.3 | Villanova |
| S.19 | @PENN STATE |

**GAME TO WATCH**
**S.26 Buffalo**
If the Owls want to continue their rise in the MAC, they need to win this home contest against the defending champs in their league opener.

| | |
|---|---|
| 0.3 | @EASTERN MICHIGAN |
| 0.10 | Ball State |
| 0.17 | Army |
| 0.24 | @TOLEDO |
| 0.31 | @NAVY |
| N.5 | Miami |
| N.13 | @AKRON |
| N.21 | Kent State |
| N.27 | @OHIO |

### QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7 **MAC:** 4-4

**Coach:** Al Golden, 4th year (10-26)
**Career record:** 10-26
**Offensive coord.:** Matt Rhule (2nd year)
**Defensive coord.:** Mark D'Onofrio (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Lincoln Financial Field (68,532)
**Tickets:** 215-204-8499 **Site:** Philadelphia
**Official athletic Web site:** www.owlsports.com

## 4 OHIO BOBCATS

Ohio ended last season on a positive note, winning its final two games following a 2-8 start.

With a number of experienced players back, expectations will be higher for the Bobcats in 2009. The challenge for coach Frank Solich is choosing the right starters.

On offense, few teams have the quarterback experience of the Bobcats. The options include seniors Theo Scott—he started in 2007 but missed most of last season with a broken collarbone—and Boo Jackson, who stepped in for Scott and threw for 2,355 yards and 19 touchdowns while rushing for 333 yards.

There are also choices at tailback in senior Chris Garrett (529 rushing yards, 5 TDs) and sophomore Donte Harden (454 yards in seven injury-plagued games).

Whoever wins the quarterback job will be looking for senior receiver Taylor Price, who caught a team-high 51 balls for 694 yards and five scores in 2008.

Ohio needs to cut down on turnovers, as the Bobcats made a league-worst 32 last year.

However, the defense does return a star-studded linebacker corps. Junior Noah Keller earned All-MAC honors after leading the team with 104 tackles a year ago, while Lee Renfro is back after finishing second to Keller with 83 stops.

Senior Steven Jackson (71 tackles) is the most dependable player returning in the secondary.

The line will look for seniors Kris Luchsinger and Conor Reilly and junior Curtis Meyers to step up.

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|

**GAME TO WATCH**
**A.30 Connecticut**
Ohio must start better than last season's 0-4 mark. The Bobcats will try to get off on the right foot against one of the Big East's better teams.

| | |
|---|---|
| S.12 | @NORTH TEXAS |
| S.19 | Cal Poly |
| S.26 | @TENNESSEE |
| 0.3 | @BOWLING GREEN |
| 0.10 | @AKRON |
| 0.17 | Miami (OH) |
| 0.24 | Kent State |
| 0.31 | @BALL STATE |
| N.10 | @BUFFALO |
| N.21 | Northern Illinois |
| N.27 | Temple |

### QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 4-8 **MAC:** 3-5

**Coach:** Frank Solich, 5th year (23-26)
**Career record:** 81-45
**Offensive coord.:** Tim Albin (5th year)
**Defensive coord.:** Jimmy Burrow (5th year)

**Stadium:** Peden Stadium (24,000)
**Tickets:** 800-575-CATS **Site:** Athens
**Official athletic Web site:** www.ohiobobcats.com

# 5 MIAMI REDHAWKS

Spring practice for Miami could have been substituted for a meet-and-greet, with all of the new faces in Oxford this year.

After four years as the offensive coordinator at Notre Dame, Mike Haywood will lead a RedHawks squad that has totaled just 10 wins in the last three seasons.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|
| S.5 | Kentucky* |
| S.12 | @BOISE STATE |
| S.19 | @WESTERN MICHIGAN |
| S.26 | @KENT STATE |
| 0.3 | Cincinnati |
| 0.10 | @NORTHWESTERN |
| 0.17 | @OHIO |
| 0.24 | Northern Illinois |
| 0.31 | Toledo |
| N.5 | @TEMPLE |
| N.12 | BOWLING GREEN |
| N.18 | BUFFALO |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.5 Kentucky***

A win against the Wildcats at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati will do wonders for new coach Mike Haywood.

** At Cincinnati, OH*

Nearly 60 percent of the roster consists of freshmen and sophomores. In fact, the veterans of the program are the assistant coaches, who have more than 200 years of experience combined.

Eight starters return on offense, led by quarterback Daniel Raudabaugh (1,960 yards, 8 TDs, 9 INTs). Should he falter, Clay Belton and Zac Dysert will be ready to step in.

Many of Raudabaugh's top targets also return, including Jamal Rogers (42 catches, 359 yards), Chris Givens (35 catches, 513 yards, 7 TDs) and Dustin Woods (35 catches, 377 yards).

The running game will be solid with Thomas Merriweather (547 rushing yards) and J.R. Taylor (427). However, they'll run behind a young line, as right guard Bob Gulley is the only returnee with experience.

Only five defensive starters are back, with significant holes at linebacker after the departure of all-league performers Clayton Mullins and Joe Hudson. Caleb Bostic, a three-time letterman with 40 stops last year, will be counted on for leadership.

The defensive line will go without All-MAC end Joe Coniglio (4 sacks), but Morris Council (2.5) returns.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 2-10 **MAC:** 1-7

**Coach:** Mike Haywood, 1st year
**Offensive coord.:** Peter Vaas (1st year)
**Defensive coord.:** Carl Reese (1st year)

**Stadium:** Yager Stadium (24,286)
**Tickets:** 866-MUHAWKS
**Site:** Oxford, Ohio
**Official athletic Web site:** www.muredhawks.com

# 6 AKRON ZIPS

Akron faces a potential watershed season this fall.

With the debut of InfoCision Stadium, the Zips need to prove the funding for the new digs was well spent. That means the Zips have some pressure to surpass 2008's 5-7 record.

The Zips need a strong season from quarterback Chris Jacquemain (2,748 yards, 20 TDs, 14 INTs), and his top targets from last year are back in Deryn Bowser (64 catches, 785 yards) and Andre Jones (47, 678).

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|
| S.5 | @PENN STATE |
| S.12 | Morgan State |
| S.19 | Indiana |
| S.26 | @CENTRAL MICHIGAN |
| 0.10 | Ohio |
| 0.17 | @BUFFALO |
| 0.24 | @SYRACUSE |
| 0.31 | @NORTHERN ILLINOIS |
| N.7 | Kent State |
| N.13 | Temple |
| N.20 | @BOWLING GREEN |
| N.27 | Eastern Michigan |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.19 Indiana**

This will be the second game at the Zips' new InfoCision Stadium, and the Hoosiers will be the first Big Ten team to visit Akron.

Akron lost an important component in the ground game in all-league back Dennis Kennedy (1,321 yards, 17 TDs). The best bets to replace him are Alex Allen and Dale Martin.

Another ingredient to the team's success on the ground was All-MAC lineman Chris Kemme, also lost to graduation.

But the rest of the line returns with Elliott Bates, Zack Anderson, Mike Ward and Corey Woods.

Five defensive starters are gone, but there are weapons available in two-time all-league pick Almondo Sewell (62 tackles), Shawn Lemon and Dan Marcoux.

Linebackers Kevin Grant and Doug Williams, who combined for 154 stops in '08, will be tough to replace, but Mike Thomas (81 tackles, 8.5 for loss) will try.

The Zips are deep in the defensive backfield thanks to the return of Wayne Cobham, Miguel Graham, Tyler Campbell and Jalil Carter.

Igor Iveljic will handle the kicking chores, while John Stec is back at punter.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7 **MAC:** 3-5

**Coach:** J.D. Brookhart, 6th year (27-33)
**Career record:** 27-33
**Offensive coord.:** Shane Montgomery (1st year)
**Defensive coord.:** Jim Fleming (6th year)

**Stadium:** InfoCision Stadium (30,000)
**Tickets:** 888-99-AKRON
**Site:** Akron, Ohio
**Official athletic Web site:** www.gozips.com

# 7 KENT STATE GOLDEN FLASHES

The Golden Flashes return 15 starters in an attempt to claim the school's first winning record since 2001. But the Flashes must replace some key losses if they hope to achieve their goal.

Among those gone are quarterback Julian Edelman (school-record 3,190 total yards in '08), receiver Shawn Bayes (39 catches, 642 yards) and left tackle Augustus Parrish, an All-MAC lineman.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|
| S.3 | Coastal Carolina |
| S.12 | @BOSTON COLLEGE |
| S.19 | Iowa State |
| S.26 | Miami (Ohio) |
| 0.3 | @BAYLOR |
| 0.10 | Bowling Green |
| 0.17 | @EASTERN MICHIGAN |
| 0.24 | @OHIO |
| 0.31 | Western Michigan |
| N.7 | @AKRON |
| N.21 | @TEMPLE |
| N.27 | Buffalo |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.26 Miami (Ohio)**

It's imperative the Golden Flashes get off to a good start in the MAC, and a win in the league opener against Miami would fit the bill.

Giorgio Morgan and Anthony Magazu both have experience at quarterback, while Sal Battles is also in the mix. At receiver, Phil Garner and Jameson Konz (who will move from tight end) need to match Bayes' 2008 production.

Things aren't as dire on the offensive line, where Parrish is the only loss. Mike Roder, Pat Reedy, Michael Fay and Chris Anzevino played key roles for a running unit that led the MAC with 230.6 yards per game last year.

But the ground-game star is tailback Eugene Jarvis. Last season, the All-MAC senior ran for 801 yards despite missing four games with an ankle injury.

On defense, Kent State loses linebackers Derek Burrell, a two-time all-league pick, and Cedrick Maxwell, meaning two new faces will join Cobrani Mixon. Among the returnees on the defensive line are Sam Frist and Aaron Hull.

The secondary will be strong thanks to the return of All-MAC safety Brian Lainhart. Last season, Lainhart led the MAC with six interceptions and had 106 tackles. Safety Dan Hartman and cornerback Danny Sadler also return.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 4-8 **MAC:** 3-5

**Coach:** Doug Martin, 6th year (19-39)
**Career record:** 19-39
**Offensive coord.:** A.J. Pratt (2nd year)
**Defensive coord.:** Pete Rekstis (6th year)

**Stadium:** Dix Stadium (29,287)
**Tickets:** 330-672-2244
**Site:** Kent, Ohio
**Official athletic Web site:** www.kentstatesports.com

MAC WEST PRESEASON RANK

# WESTERN MICHIGAN BRONCOS

# 1

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| **S.5** | **@MICHIGAN** | |
| Western Michigan has all five Football Bowl Subdivision schools from the state of Michigan on its schedule. Out of that group, a win at Ann Arbor against Big Blue would be tops for the Broncos. | | |
| **S.12** | @INDIANA | |
| **S.19** | Miami (OH) | |
| **S.26** | HOFSTRA | |
| **0.3** | @NORTHERN ILLINOIS | 29-26 |
| **0.10** | @TOLEDO | 27-17 |
| **0.17** | Central Michigan | 28-38 |
| **0.24** | Buffalo | 34-28 (OT) |
| **0.31** | @KENT STATE | |
| **N.7** | @MICHIGAN STATE | |
| **N.14** | @EASTERN MICHIGAN | 31-10 |
| **N.24** | Ball State | 22-45 |

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL

» MOTOR CITY BOWL

## PROFESSOR'S GRADE B

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

» A solid QB and one of the best passing teams in the country, but the secondary needs to grow.

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 18 | Tim Hiller (6-5, 228, Sr.) |
| RB | 2 | Brandon West (5-10, 188, Sr.) |
| LOT | 72 | Anthony Parker (6-5, 305, So.) |
| LOG | 65 | Phillip Swanson (6-4, 307, Jr.) |
| C | 63 | Paul Wasikowski (6-3, 291, Sr.) |
| ROG | 61 | Nick Clemens (6-5, 307, Jr.) |
| ROT | 79 | Jonathan Jack (6-6, 340, So.) |
| TE | 84 | Matt Stevens (6-4, 243, Sr.) |
| WR | 81 | Juan Nunez (6-0, 172, Jr.) |
| WR | 12 | Robert Arnheim (6-2, 180, So.) |
| WR | 89 | Seth Patterson (6-3, 185, Fr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 48 | Justin Braska (6-4, 234, Sr.) |
| LDT | 68 | Cody Cielenski (6-2, 280, Sr.) |
| RDT | 92 | Drew Nowak (6-4, 250, So.) |
| RDE | 96 | Weston Peiffer (6-4, 245, So.) |
| SLB | 35 | Austin Pritchard (6-4, 233, Sr.) |
| MLB | 47 | Mitch Zajac (6-1, 220, So.) |
| WLB | 51 | Harrison Porter (6-0, 220, Jr.) |
| LCB | 19 | Josh Price (6-0, 195, So.) |
| RCB | 25 | David Lewis (5-10, 170, So.) |
| FS | 1 | Doug Wiggins (6-0, 180, Jr.) |
| SS | 33 | Mario Armstrong (6-0, 188, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

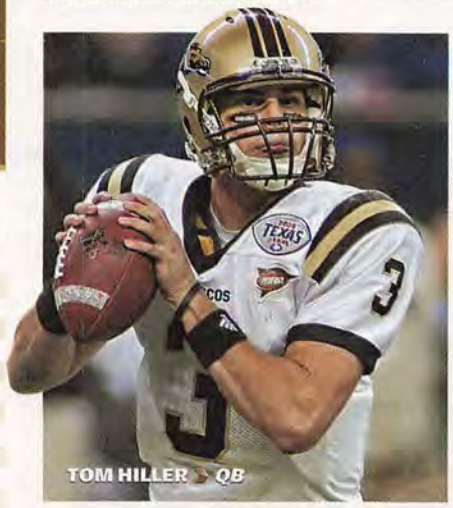
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 17 | John Potter (6-2, 195, So.) |
| P | 37 | Ben Armer (5-10, 201, So.) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 9-4
**MAC:** 6-2
*(lost to Rice in the Texas Bowl, 38-14)*

**Coach:** Bill Cubit
5th year (29-20)
**Career record:** 29-20
**Offensive coordinator:**
Bill Cubit (5th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Steve Morrison (5th year)

**Stadium:** Waldo Stadium (30,200)
**Tickets:** 269-387-8092
**Site:** Kalamazoo
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.wmubroncos.com



TOM HILLER » QB

AL KOOISTRA

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1**
**Ansel Ponder**
*WR, 6-3, 195*
Ponder was one of the top prep school offensive targets available in the 2009 class. He'll grow into a starter in no time.

**2**
**Chleb Ravenell**
*WR, 6-2, 190*
This junior-college transfer is expected to have a big impact immediately for QB Tim Hiller and the Broncos.

**3**
**T.J. Lynch**
*DE, 6-4, 248*
Another junior-college player who should push for early playing time under defensive coordinator Steve Morrison.

**4**
**Dallas Walker**
*TE, 6-5, 225*
Walker is not only a physical blocker, but he also has good hands and the size to dominate big-time defenses.

**5**
**Tyler Van Tubbergen**
*QB, 6-4, 195*
A talented Tubbergen is a steal for the Broncos and a likely replacement for Tim Hiller next year.

For the last few seasons, one of the MAC's best programs has flown under the radar.

Western Michigan has won 29 games over the past four years under coach Bill Cubit, including nine in 2008 to tie the school's single-season record. The Broncos finished second in the MAC West with a 6-2 mark, good enough to earn the program's second bowl bid in three seasons.

So is this the year Western Michigan wins its first West title since 2000, and the school's first MAC crown since 1988?

The pieces are in place for the Broncos to make that run. It begins at quarterback, where senior Tim Hiller hopes to build on last year's impressive performance, as the Broncos finished 11th nationally in passing offense. Hiller completed 64.9 percent of his throws for a conference-leading 3,725 yards and 36 touchdowns, earning third-team All-MAC honors.

A veteran line led by junior All-MAC performer Phillip Swanson, as well as returning starters Nick Clemens and Anthony Parker, will protect Hiller. Senior Paul Wasikowski and junior Nick Mitchell are back after splitting time at center last year, while sophomore Jonathan Jack is expected to earn the starting nod at right tackle.

Running behind that experienced line will be senior Brandon West, who rushed for 1,026 yards in 2008 and earned all-league honors. Sophomore Aaron Winchester (272 yards) is also back.

The Broncos will need an even better performance from junior Juan Nunez, a third-team All-MAC performer last season who hauled in 57 passes for 701 yards and seven scores.

Sophomore Robert Arnheim and freshman Seth Patterson are the early favorites to claim the other two vacated receiver slots.

Another option in the passing game is tight end Matt Stevens, a senior who steps in at a position recently manned by top-flight performers, including Tony Scheffler (Denver Broncos).

The offense will need to be productive from the beginning of the season to aid a defense that returns just four starters from last year. Two of those are on the line, as seniors Justin Braska and Cody Cielenski lead a young unit. Among the highly regarded members of this group are sophomores Drew Nowak and Weston Peiffer.

The linebacking crew is paced by Austin Pritchard, an All-MAC first-team honoree last year who finished second on the team with 86 tackles, including 12.5 for loss.

The Broncos' front seven will need to step up early to help a young secondary develop. All four starters from last season are gone, including All-MAC performers Louis Delmas, Londen Fryar and E.J. Biggers.

Miami (Fla.) transfer Doug Wiggins should step right in at free safety, while David Lewis and Josh Price will vie for spots at cornerback.

Returning kicker John Potter connected on 11 of 16 field goals, while punter Ben Armer averaged 40.6 yards per punt last season.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***ROBERT ARNHEIM, WR***

Arnheim played QB before moving to receiver because of injuries last fall. Now the sophomore is among the team's top wideouts after catching six passes for 115 yards in the spring game.

# 2 CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHIPPEWAS

The Chippewas stand on the threshold of Mid-American Conference history.

Central Michigan has played in the Motor City Bowl each of the past three seasons and looks to become the first active league member to claim four consecutive bowl bids.

There are enough weapons available to make that a reality, starting with senior quarterback Dan LeFevour, who threw for 2,784 yards and 21 touchdowns last year to earn all-league honors for the third straight season.

LeFevour has some big targets in first-team All-MAC receivers Antonio Brown (93 catches, 998 yards, 7 TDs) and Bryan Anderson. Brown is also an electrifying special-teams player, as he averaged 20.5 yards per punt return (tops in the nation) and 20.8 yards per kickoff return in 2008.

But there are questions about the ground game due to the loss of top tailback Ontario Sneed and All-MAC tackles Andrew Hartline and Greg Wojt. The line will have some patchwork to do, as sophomore tackle Rocky Weaver moves over from tight end.

The Chippewas' defense returns nearly intact from last season. Among the top players back are senior Frank Zombo and junior Sean Murnane, a pair of All-MAC defensive linemen who combined for 108 tackles and 11 sacks in 2008.

All three linebackers return, including All-MAC junior Nick Bellore, who collected a team-high 148 tackles last year.

The secondary comes in with hoards of experience, as five starters are back from last season. Seniors Kirkston Edwards, Josh Gordy and Tommy Mama each started at cornerback at different times in 2008.

Senior Andrew Aguila gives the Chippewas a weapon in the kicking game after earning all-league honors last season.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @ARIZONA | |
| S.12 | @MICHIGAN STATE | |
| S.19 | Alcorn State | |
| S.26 | Akron | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**0.3 @BUFFALO 27-25**

The Chippewas defeated the Bulls last year and now own a 4-1 edge in the budding rivalry's short history. If Central Michigan is to make a run in the MAC, road victories like this are key.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0.10 | Eastern Michigan | 52-56 |
| 0.17 | @WESTERN MICHIGAN | 38-28 |
| 0.24 | @BOWLING GREEN | |
| 0.31 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | |
| N.11 | Toledo | 24-23 |
| N.18 | @BALL STATE | 24-31 |
| N.27 | Northern Illinois | 33-30 (OT) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5
**MAC:** 6-2
*(lost to Florida Atlantic in the Motor City Bowl, 24-21)*

**Coach:** Butch Jones
3rd year (16-11)
**Career record:** 16-11
**Offensive coordinator:**
Mike Bajakian (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Tim Banks (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Kelly/Shorts Stadium (30,255)
**Tickets:** 989-774-3045
**Site:** Mount Pleasant
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.cmuchippewas.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 13 | Dan LeFevour (6-3, 223, Sr.) |
| RB | 35 | Bryan Schroeder (5-9, 211, So.) |
| LOT | 73 | Jake Olson (6-8, 268, Fr.) |
| LOG | 66 | Jeff Maddux (6-5, 314, Jr.) |
| C | 63 | Colin Miller (6-3, 291, Jr.) |
| ROG | 64 | Allen Ollenburger (6-4, 274, Sr.) |
| ROT | 86 | Rocky Weaver (6-6, 251, So.) |
| TE | 82 | David Blackburn (6-3, 232, So.) |
| WR | 7 | Bryan Anderson (6-5, 201, Sr.) |
| WR | 27 | Antonio Brown (5-10, 180, Jr.) |
| WR | 1 | Kito Poblah (6-2, 203, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 98 | Frank Zombo (6-4, 269, Sr.) |
| LDT | 54 | Sean Murnane (6-1, 266, Jr.) |
| RDT | 94 | John Williams (5-10, 275, So.) |
| RDE | 15 | Sam Williams (6-3, 238, Sr.) |
| SLB | 46 | Matt Berning (6-0, 238, Jr.) |
| MLB | 43 | Nick Bellore (6-1, 245, Jr.) |
| WLB | 17 | Tim Brazzel (6-0, 238, Jr.) |
| LCB | 19 | Josh Gordy (5-11, 192, Sr.) |
| RCB | 31 | Kirkston Edwards (6-1, 190, Sr.) |
| FS | 22 | Vince Agnew (5-10, 193, Jr.) |
| SS | 12 | Eric Fraser (6-1, 215, Sr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 36 | Andrew Aguila (5-11, 183, Sr.) |
| P | 34 | Jake Linklater (6-2, 199, So.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

# 3 NORTHERN ILLINOIS HUSKIES

Northern Illinois proved that its two-win season in 2007 was an aberration, earning the school's third bowl bid in five seasons while challenging for the Mid-American Conference West title last year. But there's a chance for a fall-off this season, since the Huskies had 19 seniors on the '08 roster.

The offense should be able to handle the losses, as a number of underclassmen played key roles in '08. Quarterback Chandler Harnish saw extensive action as a redshirt freshman and returns this season after throwing for 1,528 yards and eight touchdowns. However, he must improve on nine interceptions.

Harnish will have a new set of receivers to throw to after four seniors graduated. The top returnees are tight end Reed Cunningham (252 yards, 3 TDs) and wideout Landon Cox (16 receptions, 126 yards).

There should be competition at tailback, where the top returning player, sophomore Me'co Brown (510 rushing yards), will be challenged by junior Chad Spann and redshirt junior Ricky Crider, both of whom played in all 13 games last year.

The offensive line needs replacements at guard and right tackle, but redshirt senior Eddie Adamski and redshirt sophomore Trevor Olson return after starting every game last season.

The graduation losses hit harder on defense, with the biggest being two-time MAC Defensive Player of the Year Larry English. Among those expected to step forward on the line is Brandon Bice.

Senior free safety David Bryant returns after leading the team with 83 tackles a year ago, while junior strong safety Mike Sobol is also back.

Senior kicker Mike Salerno earned All-MAC honors last season, as 16 of his 65 kickoffs were downed in the end zone. Look for him to add punting chores to his duties this fall.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @WISCONSIN | |
| S.12 | Western Illinois | |
| S.19 | @PURDUE | |
| S.26 | Idaho | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**0.3 Western Michigan 26-29**

The Huskies open conference play at home against the Chippewas and need a win against one of the league's perennial contenders to be taken seriously.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0.17 | @TOLEDO | 38-7 |
| 0.24 | @MIAMI (OH) | 17-13 |
| 0.31 | Akron | |
| N.5 | Eastern Michigan | 37-0 |
| N.12 | Ball State | 14-45 |
| N.21 | @OHIO | |
| N.27 | @CENTRAL MICHIGAN | 30-33 (OT) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 6-7
**MAC:** 5-3
*(lost to Louisiana Tech in the Independence Bowl, 17-10)*

**Coach:** Jerry Kill
2nd year (6-7)
**Career record:** 6-7
**Offensive coordinator:**
Matt Limegrover (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Tracy Claeys (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Huskie Stadium (24,000)
**Tickets:** 815-752-6800
**Site:** DeKalb
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.niuhuskies.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 12 | Chandler Harnish (6-2, 210, So.) |
| FB | 34 | Kyle Skarb (6-2, 220, Jr.) |
| RB | 8 | Me'co Brown (5-7, 180, So.) |
| LOT | 62 | Trevor Olson (6-6, 290, So.) |
| LOG | 65 | Jason Onyebuagu (6-2, 305, Sr.) |
| C | 50 | Eddie Adamski (6-3, 280, Sr.) |
| ROG | 61 | Panan Tense (6-4, 300, Jr.) |
| ROT | 59 | Kevin Skatrud (6-6, 330, So.) |
| TE | 83 | Reed Cunningham (6-5, 245, Sr.) |
| WR | 10 | Willie Clark (6-1, 190, So.) |
| WR | 80 | Landon Cox (6-3, 215, Jr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 56 | Brandon Bice (6-4, 250, Sr.) |
| NG | 58 | Mike Krause (6-4, 270, Jr.) |
| DT | 98 | D.J. Pirkle (6-0, 270, Jr.) |
| RDE | 54 | Jake Coffman (6-5, 245, Jr.) |
| SLB | 37 | Alex Kube (6-0, 220, Jr.) |
| MLB | 29 | Pat Schiller (6-2, 225, So.) |
| WLB | 26 | Cory Hanson (6-2, 225, Sr.) |
| LCB | 33 | Patrick George (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| RCB | 23 | Kiaree Daniels (5-10, 190, Jr.) |
| FS | 4 | David Bryant (5-11, 205, Sr.) |
| SS | 38 | Mike Sobol (6-0, 195, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 16 | Mike Salerno (5-11, 165, Sr.) |
| P | 16 | Mike Salerno (5-11, 165, Sr.) |

## 4 BALL STATE CARDINALS

The 2008 season was one of the best in Ball State history—but not as good as it could have been.

The Cardinals saw an undefeated campaign and potential top-10 national ranking sabotaged by an upset loss to Buffalo in the MAC Championship Game. They then finished the year with a one-sided defeat to Tulsa in the GMAC Bowl after former coach Brady Hoke flew the coop for San Diego State.

A new season hasn't been kind to the Cardinals either. Graduation stripped the roster of 11 starters—and seven of those earned All-MAC honors last year. Perhaps the most hurtful was the loss of star quarterback Nate Davis, who decided to forgo his senior year to enter the NFL draft.

Yes, there's quite a rebuilding task for new coach Stan Parrish, but the cupboard isn't bare. Davis likely will be replaced by redshirt freshman Kelly Page, while the ground game will be led by MiQuale Lewis, an All-MAC performer who ran for 1,736 yards and 22 touchdowns last season.

Lewis will run behind a revamped line led by Michael Switzer, the only returning starter.

The strength of the defense should be the line, which returns four starters in All-MAC end Brandon Crawford, Drew Duffin, Rene Perry and Robert Eddins. Junior Davyd Jones (85 tackles) is the only starting linebacker returning.

After losing both All-MAC cornerbacks, Ball State will need a strong effort from safety Sean Baker (6 INTs).

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|
| S.3 | North Texas |
| S.12 | New Hampshire |
| S.19 | @ARMY |
| S.26 | @AUBURN |
| 0.3 | Toledo |
| 0.10 | @TEMPLE |
| 0.17 | Bowling Green |
| 0.24 | @EASTERN MICHIGAN |
| 0.31 | Ohio |
| N.12 | @NORTHERN ILLINOIS |
| N.18 | Central Michigan |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.24 @WESTERN MICHIGAN**

This season finale will wrap up a tough three-game stretch. Ball State must go at least 2-1 to have a shot at the division.

### QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 12-2 **MAC:** 8-0
*(lost to Tulsa in the GMAC Bowl, 45-13)*

**Coach:** Stan Parrish, 1st year (0-1; head coach in 2009 GMAC Bowl)
**Career record:** 2-31-1
**Offensive coord.:** Eddie Faulkner (1st year)
**Defensive coord.:** Doug Graber (1st year)

**Stadium:** Scheumann Stadium (22,500)
**Tickets:** 765-285-1474 **Site:** Muncie, Ind.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.ballstatesports.com

## 5 TOLEDO ROCKETS

New coach Tim Beckman has stressed competition to the Toledo Rockets. He's gone so far as to divide the roster into eight "teams" to compete in a variety of areas, including conditioning and academics.

Among the returnees is quarterback Aaron Opelt, a three-year starter who fought through injuries last season to rack up 2,176 passing yards and 12 touchdowns. While two-time All-MAC receiver Stephen Williams is back, fellow all-league receiver Nick Moore has graduated, meaning Williams could see more double coverage from secondaries.

There is also solid depth at running back, as senior All-MAC performer DaJuane Collins is backed by sophomore Morgan Williams, who ran for 1,010 yards last year after Collins went down with an injury.

All five starters are back on the offensive line, a group led by seniors Jared DeWalt and Buster Garrett.

While the Rockets' defense ranked 10th in the MAC in points allowed (31.4 per game), there are several solid players on this unit, including safety Barry Church, a three-time first-team All-MAC performer, and linebacker Archie Donald, who led the team with 119 tackles last season.

The biggest question for Toledo lies on the defensive line, where the team struggled to generate a rush and finished with just 10 sacks in 2008. Senior Skylaar Constant was the best of the bunch with 56 tackles.

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|
| S.5 | @PURDUE |
| S.11 | Colorado |
| S.26 | @FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL |
| 0.3 | @BALL STATE |
| 0.10 | Western Michigan |
| 0.17 | Northern Illinois |
| 0.24 | Temple |
| 0.31 | @MIAMI (OH) |
| N.11 | @CENTRAL MICHIGAN |
| N.20 | Eastern Michigan |
| N.27 | @BOWLING GREEN |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.19 Ohio State***

Technically, this is a home game, even though the Rockets will be playing in Cleveland Browns Stadium and the Buckeyes' faithful will outnumber Toledo fans.

** at Cleveland*

### QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 3-9 **MAC:** 2-6

**Coach:** Tim Beckman, 1st year
**Offensive coord.:** Matt Campbell (1st year)
**Defensive coord.:** Mike Ward (1st year), Paul Nichols (1st year)

**Stadium:** Glass Bowl (26,248)
**Tickets:** 419-530-GOLD **Site:** Toledo, Ohio
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.utrockets.com

## 6 EASTERN MICHIGAN EAGLES

There is change afoot this season at Eastern Michigan. Ron English, formerly the defensive coordinator at Michigan and Louisville, will serve as coach.

And English has plenty to work with, as 16 starters return.

There are two options at quarterback in Andy Schmitt, who threw for 2,644 yards and 15 touchdowns in 10 starts last year, and Kyle McMahon, who passed for 574 yards in five appearances.

Whoever wins the quarterback job will throw to plenty of experienced wideouts. Senior Jacory Stone earned All-MAC honors last year, while junior tight end Josh LeDuc made 32 receptions.

The running game should be in good hands thanks to senior Terrence Blevins, who ran for a team-best 575 yards and 12 touchdowns in 2008.

Eastern Michigan's offensive line lost All-MAC tackle T.J. Lang, but should fare well as it returns Eric Davis, a two-year starter at center, and senior guards Andy Fretz and Stephen Johnson.

While a number of key players are back on defense, the losses include the team's top two tacklers in All-MAC linebacker Daniel Holtzclaw and safety Jacob Wyatt.

The line will be young, with Brandon Downs the only senior, but the returnees include sophomore Brad Ohrman, who had 11 tackles for loss in 2008.

Senior Jermaine Jenkins, the team's top returning tackler with 64 stops last year, heads the linebacking corps.

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|
| S.5 | ARMY |
| S.12 | @NORTHWESTERN |
| 0.3 | TEMPLE |
| 0.10 | @CENTRAL MICHIGAN |
| 0.17 | Kent State |
| 0.24 | Ball State |
| 0.31 | @ARKANSAS |
| N.5 | @NORTHERN ILLINOIS |
| N.14 | Western Michigan |
| N.20 | @TOLEDO |
| N.27 | @AKRON |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.19 @MICHIGAN**

Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor are just minutes apart, and new coach Ron English knows the way after serving five seasons as a Wolverines assistant.

### QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 3-9 **MAC:** 2-6

**Coach:** Ron English, 1st year
**Offensive coord.:** Ken Karcher (1st year)
**Defensive coord.:** Eric Lewis (1st year)

**Stadium:** Rynearson Stadium (30,200)
**Tickets:** 734-487-2282 **Site:** Ypsilanti
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.emueagles.com

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

# SUN BELT

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

1 Troy
2 Arkansas State
3 Florida Atlantic
4 Middle Tennessee
5 Louisiana-Monroe
6 Louisiana-Lafayette
7 Florida International
8 North Texas
9 Western Kentucky

## RATING THE PLAYERS

**Fastest Receiver**
T.Y. Hilton, Florida International

**Best Hands**
Jerrel Jernigan, WR, Troy

**Best Passing QB**
Rusty Smith, Florida Atlantic

**Best Running QB**
Corey Leonard, Arkansas State

**Most Elusive RB**
Cam Montgomery, North Texas

**Best Instincts**
Corey Leonard, QB, Arkansas State

**Best Athlete**
T.Y. Hilton, WR, Florida International

**Best Under Pressure**
Rusty Smith, QB, Florida Atlantic

**Top NFL Prospect**
Brandon Lang, DE, Troy

**Top Impact Freshman**
Josh Jarboe, WR, Troy

**Hardest Hitter**
Boris Lee, LB, Troy

**Biggest Underachiever**
Dwight Dasher, QB, Middle Tennessee

**Best Home-Field Advantage**
Troy

**Best Fans**
Louisiana-Lafayette

**Best Mascot**
Big Red, Western Kentucky

**Best Stadium**
Movie Gallery Stadium, Troy

## Belt not rolling over for BCS schools

By Michael Bradley, *correspondent*

The nation's economy may be staggering, but these are boom times for the Sun Belt Conference.

The league welcomes a new member this year, Western Kentucky, and will expand to 10 teams by 2013 with the addition of South Alabama, which brings its football program to life this year. Florida International opened its new stadium a year ago. Four Sun Belt teams were eligible for bowl games in '08, and Florida Atlantic became the first school in conference history to win back-to-back postseason contests.

Not that the Sun Belt is headed for BCS qualification or inclusion in talk about the big boys.

Instead, it's trying to become a solid mid-major with a stable membership and the ability to be more than just cannon fodder for the larger programs that pay its schools large amounts for nonconference victories. The Sun Belt has a bright future and, with few exceptions, that goes for its teams, too.

Although Western Kentucky has a long way to go before it can challenge for the title, North Texas and FIU (both of which struggled last year with young teams) will be better. Middle Tennessee is also on the rise.

Louisiana-Monroe and Louisiana-Lafayette have some issues, but neither will endure too much hardship. Don't ever underestimate Florida Atlantic, as long as veteran coach Howard Schnellenberger is running the show. And there is an interesting battle brewing at the top between Troy and Arkansas State, which both possess some impressive offensive firepower.

There are some talented individuals returning as well. Troy's DuJuan Harris and Arkansas State's Reggie Arnold both topped the 1,000-yard mark on the ground last year and are big reasons for their teams' respective flourishing offenses. Quarterback Rusty Smith, who threw for 3,224 yards last year, will trigger Florida Atlantic's attack. Louisiana-Monroe linebacker Cardia Jackson is back after piling up 127 stops, and T.Y. Hilton of FIU averaged an impressive 24.7 yards per catch.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Barton Simmons, *Rivals.com*

**1. TROY** Troy signed 39 prospects this year. If the top players among that group land on campus, the Trojans will become major impact players in the Sun Belt.

**2. FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL** With athletes such as Wayne Times and Larvez Mars coming aboard, coach Mario Cristobal has capitalized on the talent available in the state of Florida.

**3. FLORIDA ATLANTIC** Only two of FAU's 26 signees came from outside Florida.

**4. ARKANSAS STATE** Former Tulsa quarterback commitment Phillip Butterfield highlights this class.

**5. WESTERN KENTUCKY** The Hilltoppers put together a solid 2009 class with some talented prospects who slipped through the cracks of the bigger programs.

**6. MIDDLE TENNESSEE** The Blue Raiders worked hard in Georgia to power a class that filled their recruiting needs.

**7. NORTH TEXAS** After stockpiling some offensive talent during his first couple of years at North Texas, Todd Dodge focused on defense in 2009—particularly on the line.

**8. LOUISIANA-MONROE** With only five of its 27 signees from Louisiana, ULM coaches worked hard in Mississippi and Texas to fill out this class.

**9. LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE** The Ragin' Cajuns took a small class in 2009, signing only 18 prospects. Running back Robert Walker was one of the most productive prep backs in Louisiana.

## ALL-SUN BELT

### OFFENSE

QB Rusty Smith, Sr., Florida Atlantic
RB Reggie Arnold, Sr., Arkansas State
RB DuJuan Harris, Jr., Troy
OL Brad Bustle, Sr., La.-Lafayette
OL Chris Fisher, Sr., La.-Lafayette
OL Brad Serini, Jr., Florida International
OL Jonathan Decoster, Jr., La.-Lafayette
OL Tyler Clark, Jr., Troy
TE Jamari Grant, Sr., Florida Atlantic
WR Jerrel Jernigan, Jr., Troy
WR T.Y. Hilton, So., Florida International

### DEFENSE

DL Alex Carrington, Sr., Arkansas State
DL Brandon Lang, Sr., Troy
DL Cameron Sheffield, Sr., Troy
DL Aaron Morgan, Sr., La.-Monroe
LB Cardia Jackson, Sr., La.-Monroe
LB Boris Lee, Sr., Troy
LB Tobe Nwigwe, Sr., North Texas
DB Anthony Gaitor, Jr., Florida International
DB Josh Thompson, Sr., La.-Monroe
DB Jeremy Killen, Jr., Middle Tennessee
DB Ed Alexander, Sr., Florida Atlantic

### SPECIALISTS

K Josh Arauco, Sr., Arkansas State
P Carlos Munera, Sr., Florida International

## FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

**1** As usual, Troy will import a group of junior-college transfers and turn them into productive performers quickly. And some large schools—Arkansas and Florida, for example—will underestimate the Trojans and get one heck of a scare, if not a defeat.

**2** Western Kentucky fans' riotous enthusiasm will wane as the season plays out, thanks to a long road in Sun Belt play. Welcome to the Football Bowl Subdivision.

**3** North Texas quarterback Riley Dodge won't be the Mean Green's savior, but he will show a strong grasp of his father's unique offense and flash skills that should make fans optimistic.

**4** Even though his team has lost the guts of its ground game, Louisiana-Lafayette coach Rickey Bustle will find a way to put together a strong rushing attack that becomes one of the best in the country.

## ASCENDING

**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL** The Golden Panthers have a two-year-old stadium, some young talent and a coach (Mario Cristobal) who knows what he's doing. Bowl contention is not far off.

## DESCENDING

**LOUISIANA-MONROE** The Warhawks have two new coordinators, and if things don't pick up, they could have a new coach in 2010. Monroe better hope its strong recruiting class and new spread offense pay dividends.

SUN BELT PRESEASON RANK

# TROY TROJANS 1

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | @BOWLING GREEN | |
| S.12 | @FLORIDA | |
| S.19 | UAB | |
| S.26 | @ARKANSAS STATE | 35-9 |
| O.6 | Middle Tennessee | 31-17 |
| O.17 | @FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL | 33-23 |
| O.24 | North Texas | 45-17 |
| O.31 | Louisiana-Monroe | 30-31 |
| N.7 | @WESTERN KENTUCKY | 17-7 |
| N.14 | @ARKANSAS | |
| N.21 | Florida Atlantic | 30-17 |
| N.28 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE | 48-3 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.12 @FLORIDA**

The Trojans have a history of giving big-time teams hard times. Witness last year's close call at LSU. If the Gators are still admiring their national-title rings, they could be in trouble.

**BOWL PROJECTION** LOWER TIER BOWL

» NEW ORLEANS BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE B**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**

» Plenty of skill players bring offensive explosiveness.

» Tradition of success breeds confidence.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5
**Sun Belt:** 6-1
*(lost to Southern Miss in the New Orleans Bowl in OT, 30-27)*

**Coach:** Larry Blakeney
19th year (144-73-1)
**Career record:** 144-73-1
**Offensive coordinator:**
Neal Brown (3rd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Jeremy Rowell (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Movie Gallery Stadium (30,000)
**Tickets:** 877-878-9467
**Site:** Troy, Ala.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.troytrojans.com

The Trojans are favored to win a fourth straight Sun Belt title because they field the best arsenal of skill-position players in the league. And though there are some holes, mostly on the defense, few coaches are more capable of rebuilding with transfers than Larry Blakeney.

Take the quarterback spot, for instance. Last year, Troy had to replace Omar Haugabrook and his tremendous production. Enter Levi Brown. The '08 Sun Belt Newcomer of the Year and transfer from Richmond completed 61.7 percent of his passes for 15 touchdowns against just three picks last year.

Brown will get solid production from tailback DuJuan Harris, who gained 1,077 yards and scored 11 times a year ago.

The Trojans have a pile of receivers at Brown's disposal, beginning with Jerrel Jernigan (77 catches). Seniors Andrew Davis and Cornelius Williams are also reliable targets, and junior-college transfers Jason Bruce and Tebiarus Gill will compete for playing time.

The diamond-in-the-rough could be former five-star recruit Josh Jarboe, a freshman who was set to attend Oklahoma last year before off-field issues directed him to Troy.

Senior ends Brandon Lang (10.5 sacks) and Cameron Sheffield (5.5) should be even more formidable once tackle Eugene Kinlaw cracks the lineup. The reigning national juco Defensive Player of the Year recorded 11 sacks in '08. Former Miami (Fla.) signee Antonio Harper, who spent last year at Hargrave Military (Va.) Academy, will also provide depth along the line.

Linebackers Boris Lee (126 tackles) and Bear Woods (108) are back, but the Trojans need help in the secondary, where only senior cornerback Jorrick Calvin returns.

Junior-college transfer Barry Valcin has an athletic pedigree and will battle KeJuan Phillips for the other starting corner spot, while senior safeties Courtland Fuller and Chris Bowens have each gained considerable experience in backup roles and should step up to a leadership position.

The special teams are in great shape. Sam Glusman converted 20 of 29 field-goal tries last year, including seven of nine from 40-49 yards. Sophomore punter Will Goggans had a solid debut, averaging 39.2 yards per boot.

At some point, Troy isn't going to win the Sun Belt title. But this season doesn't appear to be that time. The Trojans have too much offensive firepower, and if the secondary comes around, any holes on defense will take care of themselves.

Although the conference is gaining on Blakeney's bullies, the other schools won't supplant the three-time defending champion in 2009.

Barring a rash of injuries, Troy has what it takes to secure a fourth straight conference title and the replacement parts to keep the fun going all season long.

LEVI BROWN • QB

CRYSTAL LOGIUDICE / US PRESSWIRE

## PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 12 | Levi Brown (6-4, 219, Sr.) |
| RB | 32 | DuJuan Harris (5-7, 183, Jr.) |
| LOT | 66 | Nic Riley (6-4, 304, Sr.) |
| LOG | 73 | Steven Adams (6-3, 315, Sr.) |
| C | 75 | Danny Franks (6-3, 310, Sr.) |
| ROG | 58 | Tyler Clark 6-2, 275, Jr.) |
| ROT | | Tyler Graves (6-6, 300, Jr.) |
| WR | 3 | Jerrel Jernigan (5-9, 173, Jr.) |
| WR | 1 | Cornelius Williams (6-0, 190, Sr.) |
| WR | 4 | Andrew Davis (5-9, 177, Sr.) |
| WR | 5 | Josh Jarboe (6-3, 195, Fr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 91 | Brandon Lang (6-4, 256, Sr.) |
| LDT | 59 | Kevin Dixon (6-2, 271, Sr.) |
| RDT | | Eugene Kinlaw (6-2, 294, Jr.) |
| RDE | 90 | Cameron Sheffield (6-2, 237, Sr.) |
| SLB | 50 | David McDowell (6-1, 247, Sr.) |
| MLB | 2 | Boris Lee (6-0, 224, Sr.) |
| WLB | 48 | Bear Woods (6-0, 228, Sr.) |
| LCB | 34 | KeJuan Phillips (5-10, 178, So.) |
| RCB | 14 | Jorrick Calvin (5-10, 181, Sr.) |
| FS | 13 | Chris Bowens (6-0, 187, Sr.) |
| SS | 18 | Courtland Fuller (5-11, 199, Sr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 38 | Sam Glusman (5-10, 166, Sr.) |
| P | 47 | Will Goggans (6-0, 223, So.) |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## RATING THE RECRUITS

**1 — Eugene Kinlaw**
*DT, 6-2, 294*
Kinlaw was a huge pickup for Troy; he was one of the most highly rated junior-college defensive players in the nation last year.

**2 — Antonio Harper**
*LB, 6-4, 230*
After signing with Miami out of high school, Troy was fortunate to pick up this headhunter after he spent a year in prep school.

**3 — Jonathan Massaquoi**
*DE, 6-4, 240*
Massaquoi is a college-ready defender who can step in and make an immediate impact on the defensive line.

**4 — Dontavious Pyron**
*DT, 6-1, 270*
Pyron was one of the most physically dominating prep defensive linemen in the state of Florida, and the Trojans stole him.

**5 — Shawn Southward**
*RB, 5-9, 185*
A dominating all-star game performance saw Southward's stock go through the roof. He'll do well with the Trojans.

## THE NEXT BIG THING

***EUGENE KINLAW, DT***

The 6-2, 294-pounder from Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College was the 2008 NJCAA Defensive Player of Year. He'll provide immediate relief.

# 2 ARKANSAS STATE RED WOLVES

With a steady 2008 campaign, the Red Wolves gave fans a glimpse of what's ahead with an offense that returns all of its major skill-position players and should be efficient against defensive secondaries. Arkansas State set a school record for total offense in 2008 (4,786 yards) and it has a good chance to top that this season. Whether it's good enough to supplant Troy at the top of the Sun Belt standings depends on a line that needs three new members to come together quickly.

The backfield is in great shape. Senior quarterback Corey Leonard returns after throwing for 2,347 yards and running for 516 more last year. He tossed 16 touchdowns to eight picks, but his 54.2 completion percentage was substandard.

If Leonard can become more accurate, senior receivers Jahbari McLennan and Brandon Thompkins will flourish. Each caught 32 passes last year but have the potential to close their careers on a higher note.

With the return of running backs Reggie Arnold (1,074 yards, 7 TDs) and Derek Lawson (695, 4), the ground attack packs a punch. Add in Leonard, and you have an unstoppable offensive package.

Arkansas State's defense brings back eight starters, most notably end Alex Carrington (53 tackles, 10.5 sacks) and tackle Bryan Hall (39, 5).

Senior Darious Glover leads the linebacking corps, while strong safety M.D. Jennings and cornerback Daylan Walker are the stalwarts in the secondary.

Senior Josh Arauco made 17 of 20 field goals last year, including four of five from 40-plus yards. Sophomore Ryan Wilbourn takes over the punting duties after handling kickoffs last year.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Mississippi Valley State | |
| S.12 | @NEBRASKA | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.26 Troy** 9-35

This early clash between the league's top teams could decide the championship—or at least give one squad a leg up.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0.3 | @IOWA | |
| 0.13 | @LOUISIANA-MONROE | 37-29 |
| 0.24 | Florida International | 21-22 |
| 0.31 | @LOUISVILLE | |
| N.7 | Louisiana-Lafayette | 23-28 |
| N.14 | @FLORIDA ATLANTIC | 28-14 |
| N.21 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE | 31-14 |
| N.28 | North Texas | 33-28 |
| D.3 | @WESTERN KENTUCKY | |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 6-6
**Sun Belt:** 4-3

**Coach:** Steve Roberts
8th year (37-47)
**Career Record:** 37-47 (FBS)
**Offensive coordinator:**
Doug Ruse (8th year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Kevin Corless (8th year)

**Stadium:** ASU Stadium (30,964)
**Tickets:** 888-ASU-FANS
**Site:** Jonesboro
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.asuindians.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 1 | Corey Leonard (6-1, 207, Sr.) |
| FB | 42 | Jeff Blake (5-10, 239, Jr.) |
| RB | 2 | Reggie Arnold (5-9, 219, Sr.) |
| LOT | 67 | Kiano Prater (6-3, 292, Sr.) |
| LOG | 60 | Dominic Padrta (6-4, 312, Sr.) |
| C | 73 | Tom Castilaw (6-3, 297, Jr.) |
| ROG | 61 | Drew Hilton (6-3, 302, Jr.) |
| ROT | 72 | Derek Newton (6-5, 313, Sr.) |
| TE | 87 | J.T. Jordan (6-1, 274, Sr.) |
| WR | 9 | Jahbari McLennan (5-11, 188, Sr.) |
| WR | 14 | Brandon Thompkins (5-9, 180, Sr) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 98 | Alex Carrington (6-5, 284, Sr.) |
| LDT | 99 | Khari Mays (6-2, 288, Sr.) |
| RDT | 90 | Bryan Hall (6-1, 284, Jr.) |
| RDE | 54 | Stanley Wakwe (6-1, 246, Sr.) |
| SLB | 46 | Darius Glover (6-1, 220, Jr.) |
| MLB | 30 | Michael Adams (6-1, 245, So.) |
| WLB | 7 | Greg Hardy (6-0, 246, Sr.) |
| LCB | 28 | Paul Stephens (5-9, 166, Sr.) |
| RCB | 13 | Daylan Walker (5-9, 177, Sr.) |
| FS | 39 | Evan Van Dolah (6-2, 213, Sr.) |
| SS | 26 | M.D. Jennings (6-0, 172, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 89 | Josh Arauco (5-9, 218, Sr.) |
| P | 83 | Ryan Wilbourn (5-10, 157, So.) |

# 3 FLORIDA ATLANTIC OWLS

Despite being soaked with Gatorade, Howard Schnellenberger was smiling ear-to-ear after Florida Atlantic beat Central Michigan 24-21 to win the Motor City Bowl last year. It was the second straight bowl victory for a program in its infancy.

Don't be surprised if Schnellenberger is a proud papa again in 2009, as Florida Atlantic has a good shot to make its third consecutive postseason appearance in the program's eight-year history.

The Owls boast a strong passing game with quarterback Rusty Smith, who threw for 3,224 yards and 24 touchdowns last year.

Granted, he needs to cut back on his 14 interceptions and improve on a 53.8 completion percentage. But Smith has a good arm and is expected to return to his '07 form, when he was named Sun Belt Player of the Year.

Receivers Cortez Gent (60 receptions, 9 TDs) and Chris Bonner (22, 3) are big targets. And Smith will no doubt benefit from the return of tight end Jason Harmon, who was coming off an All-Sun Belt Conference season in '07 with 63 catches for five touchdowns before he tore his ACL last spring.

The FAU defense has some holes, most notably in the front seven.

Senior tackle Josh Savidge registered 28 tackles last year, but he doesn't have much company in terms of returning production.

Linebacker Edward Bradwell is solid, while corners Tavious Polo and Tarvoris Hill are capable. Safety Ed Alexander picked off three passes last season.

Keegan Peterson averaged just 38.3 yards per punt last year and the Owls must find a new kicker, with junior Ross Gornall the prime candidate.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @NEBRASKA | 0-00 |
| S.19 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | |
| S.26 | Louisiana-Monroe | 29-28 |
| 0.3 | Wyoming | |
| 0.17 | @NORTH TEXAS | 46-13 |
| 0.24 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE | 40-29 |
| 0.31 | Middle Tennessee | 13-14 |
| N.7 | @UAB | 49-34 |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.14 Arkansas State** 14-28

The Owls will be bidding for bowl eligibility for a third straight year, and a win over Arkansas State would help secure that distinction.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| N.21 | @TROY | 17-30 |
| N.28 | Western Kentucky | 24-20 |
| D.5 | @FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL | 57-50 (OT) |

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 7-6
**Sun Belt:** 4-3
*(beat Central Michigan in the Motor City Bowl, 24-21)*

**Coach:** Howard Schnellenberger
9th year (48-48)
**Career Record:** 148-125-3
**Offensive coordinator:**
Darryl Jackson (1st year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Kirk Hoza (1st year)

**Stadium:** Lockhart Stadium (20,500)
**Tickets:** 866-FAU-OWLS
**Site:** Boca Raton
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.fausports.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 11 | Rusty Smith (6-5, 230, Sr.) |
| FB | 46 | William Rose (6-1, 230, Sr.) |
| RB | 25 | Jeff Blanchard (5-9, 195, Jr.) |
| LOT | 70 | Lavoris Williams (6-4, 285, Jr.) |
| LOG | 53 | Samuel McRoy (6-4, 280, So.) |
| C | 76 | Ryan Wischnefski (6-2, 317, Jr.) |
| ROG | 73 | Kevin Miller (6-3, 310, Sr.) |
| ROT | 74 | Carl Spitale (6-8, 340, Sr.) |
| TE | 88 | Jason Harmon (6-3, 215, Sr.) |
| WR | 16 | Cortez Gent (6-2, 185, Sr.) |
| WR | 7 | Chris Bonner (6-3, 195, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 75 | Jamere Johnson (6-4, 220, So.) |
| LDT | 9 | Jarvis Givens (6-3, 300, So.) |
| RDT | 95 | Josh Savidge (6-2, 270, Sr.) |
| RDE | 94 | Jermaine Council (6-5, 275, Sr.) |
| SLB | 39 | Malik Eugene (6-3, 235, Jr.) |
| MLB | 45 | Michael Lockley (6-3, 240, Jr.) |
| WLB | 47 | Edward Bradwell (6-1, 220, Sr.) |
| LCB | 9 | Tarvoris Hill (6-0, 170, Jr.) |
| RCB | 5 | Tavious Polo (5-11, 175, Jr.) |
| FS | 38 | Ed Alexander (6-1, 172, Jr.) |
| SS | 37 | Austen Jensen (6-2, 200, Jr.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PK | 20 | Ross Gornall (5-11, 190, Jr.) |
| P | 22 | Keegan Peterson (6-1, 175, Sr.) |

# 4 MIDDLE TENNESSEE BLUE RAIDERS

Offensive coordinator Tony Franklin's departure from Auburn was not the smoothest, but the landing at Middle Tennessee was soft, and his tenure could be prosperous.

The reason is the spread-offense guru has some good weapons at his disposal.

The first order of business is getting quarterback Dwight Dasher ready under center. The junior can run, but his passing has been suspect, as evidenced by his 38.6 completion percentage in limited action. If Dasher can't become more accurate, he'll have trouble taking the job.

Senior running back Phillip Tanner came on strong at the end of '08 and scored 15 touchdowns, while receivers Eldred King (51 receptions) and Malcolm Beyah (33) should be key targets in the air attack. And since all five starters are back on the line, protection won't be a problem.

The defense needs help at linebacker, but there are playmakers worth watching, most notably Danny Carmichael. Last year, the senior made 75.5 tackles, including 11.5 behind the line.

Tackle Dwight Smith found his way into enemy backfields 7.5 times last year, while senior corner Alex Suber had a pair of interceptions.

The kicking game is in fine shape, thanks to the return of kicker Alan Gendreau (10-of-14 on field goals) and punter David DeFatta (40.9 yards per punt).

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|
| S.5 | @CLEMSON |
| S.12 | Memphis |
| S.19 | @MARYLAND |
| S.26 | @NORTH TEXAS |
| 0.6 | @TROY |
| 0.17 | Mississippi State |
| 0.24 | WESTERN KENTUCKY |
| 0.31 | @FLORIDA ATLANTIC |
| N.7 | Florida International |
| N.14 | Louisiana-Lafayette |
| N.21 | Arkansas State |
| N.28 | @LOUISIANA-MONROE |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**0.21 Arkansas State**

The Blue Raiders are trying to re-establish themselves as contenders in the Sun Belt, and a win here would be a good start.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7 **Sun Belt:** 3-4

**Coach:** Rick Stockstill, 4th year (17-20)
**Career record:** 17-20
**Offensive coord.:** Tony Franklin (1st year)
**Defensive coord.:** Manny Diaz (4th year)

**Stadium:** Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium (30,788)
**Tickets:** 888-YES-MTSU
**Site:** Murfreesboro
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.goblueraiders.com

# 5 LOUISIANA-MONROE WARHAWKS

When seven-year coach Charlie Weatherbie patrols the sidelines this fall, one of his pregame tasks may be to hand out nametags to his assistant coaches.

The Warhawks come into 2008 with six new coaches, including three coordinators: Jonas Weatherbie (Charlie's son) and Vance Vice on offense and Tony Reffett for the defense.

The new staff will have their hands full since the Warhawks are without some key performers on each side of the ball and must fix both lines.

The most pressing question is at quarterback, where Kinsmon Lancaster's departure leaves junior Trey Revell in charge. Revell saw mop-up time in nine games last year.

As a safety valve, Revell will have Frank Goodin (783 yards, 5 TDs) behind him to handle the running chores.

The line needs work after giving up 31 sacks last year. Fonda White, a junior-college transfer, will look to help.

With seven starters back on defense, the Warhawks have some potential, but must do a better job of getting to the quarterback after registering just 13 sacks in 2008.

End Aaron Morgan, who had six of those sacks, and tackle Aaron Williams return.

The strength of the defense comes at linebacker, where Cardia Jackson (127 tackles), Josh Thompson (108) and Theo Smith (49) are back. Corners Nate Brown and Otis Stamps are also solid performers.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|
| S.5 | @TEXAS |
| S.12 | Texas Southern |
| S.19 | @ARIZONA STATE |
| S.26 | @FLORIDA ATLANTIC |
| 0.3 | Florida International |
| 0.13 | Arkansas State |
| 0.24 | @KENTUCKY |
| 0.31 | @TROY |
| N.7 | @NORTH TEXAS |
| N.14 | Western Kentucky |
| N.21 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE |
| N.28 | Middle Tennessee |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.28 Middle Tennessee**

With the pressure on Charlie Weatherbie, this season-closer will either be a step toward job security or a final axe.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 4-8 **Sun Belt:** 3-4

**Coach:** Charlie Weatherbie, 7th year (25-45)
**Career record:** 70-109
**Passing-game coord.:** Jonas Weatherbie (1st year)
**Running-game coord.:** Vance Vice (1st year)
**Defensive coord.:** Tony Reffett (1st year)

**Stadium:** Malone Stadium (30,427)
**Tickets:** 318-342-3ULM **Site:** Monroe
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.ulmathletics.com

# 6 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE RAGIN' CAJUNS

As long as Rickey Bustle is coaching the Ragin' Cajuns, the team is going to run the football. Last year's squad was seventh in the country in ground production (263.7 yards a game), replicating its '07 performance. Louisiana-Lafayette finished seventh in 2005 as well.

A repeat performance may not happen this year, since the top two running backs and dual-threat quarterback Michael Desormeaux are gone.

The fight for the top signal-caller spot was not resolved during the spring and will continue through August. Sophomores Brad McGuire and Chris Masson and redshirt freshman Blaine Gauthier will fight it out.

As for the running-back slot, experience is just as scarce. The six backs on the roster have only 70 carries among them. The receiving corps was hit hard by graduation, too, but Marlin Miller and junior-college newcomer Vernon Wolfe looked good in the spring. The line boasts first-team All-Sun Belt members Brad Bustle and Chris Fisher.

The defense is strong at linebacker, thanks to the return of Daylon McCoy and Antwyne Zanders. There are plenty of upperclassmen along the line, but junior-college transfers Tyrell Gaddies and Jordan Topp will compete for rotation spots.

Orkeys Auriene and Dwight Bentley saw plenty of time at cornerback last year, but the Ragin' Cajuns need some safeties.

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|
| S.5 | Southern University |
| S.12 | Kansas State |
| S.19 | @LSU |
| S.26 | @NEBRASKA |
| 0.10 | North Texas |
| 0.17 | @WESTERN KENTUCKY |
| 0.24 | Florida Atlantic |
| 0.31 | @FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL |
| N.7 | @ARKANSAS STATE |
| N.14 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE |
| N.21 | Louisiana-Monroe |
| N.28 | Troy |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**N.21 Louisiana-Monroe**

The Cajuns always want to knock off their in-state rival, and this contest could make a case for bowl eligibility.

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 6-6 **Sun Belt:** 5-2

**Coach:** Rickey Bustle, 8th year (32-50)
**Career record:** 32-50
**Offensive coord.:** Ron Hudson (2nd year)
**Defensive coord.:** Kevin Fouquier (3rd year)

**Stadium:** Cajun Field (31,000)
**Tickets:** 337-265-2100
**Site:** Lafayette
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.ragincajuns.com

## 7 FLA. INTERNATIONAL GOLDEN PANTHERS

After a pitiful 2007 campaign, the Golden Panthers made significant strides last year and should show signs of continued improvement this season.

With 16 starters back and another solid recruiting class coming to campus, Florida International is heading in the right direction.

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|
| S.12 | @ALABAMA |
| S.19 | @RUTGERS |
| S.26 | Toledo |
| 0.3 | @LOUISIANA-MONROE |
| 0.10 | @WESTERN KENTUCKY |
| 0.17 | Troy |
| 0.24 | @ARKANSAS STATE |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**0.31 Louisiana-Lafayette**

The Golden Panthers are trying to climb the ranks, and a win over another middle-of-the-pack squad could put them over the top.

| | |
|---|---|
| N.7 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE |
| N.14 | North Texas |
| N.21 | @FLORIDA |
| D.5 | FLORIDA ATLANTIC |

The trouble is several other teams in the Sun Belt are ahead of the Panthers in terms of depth, experience and talent.

If FIU is going to eclipse .500 this season, it has to run the ball better. The Panthers averaged just 2.8 yards per carry last year.

The good news is that all five starters are back along the offensive line, including senior tackles Joe Alajajian and Ula Matavao. That should help Darriet Perry (who replaces Julian Reams) mature into a productive running back.

Senior quarterback Paul McCall will have to work on his accuracy after completing just 52.7 percent of his passes last year. Helping McCall do that will be play-making receiver T.Y. Hilton (41 catches, 24.7 yards per catch).

The arrival of junior-college end Thatcher Starling could bolster a defensive line that registered only 18 sacks last year and wasn't successful against the run (156.2 yards per game).

Junior cornerback Anthony Gaitor, who returned two of his five interceptions for touchdowns a year ago, returns, as does stellar strong safety Jeremiah Weatherspoon.

### QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 5-7 **Sun Belt:** 4-3

**Coach:** Mario Cristobal, 3rd year (6-18)
**Career record:** 6-18
**Offensive coord.:** Bill Legg (2nd year)
**Defensive coord.:** Phil Galiano (3rd year)

**Stadium:** FIU Stadium (20,000)
**Tickets:** 866-FIU-GAME
**Site:** Miami
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.fiusports.com

## 8 NORTH TEXAS MEAN GREEN

The Mean Green lived up to half of their nickname last year, with just a handful of seniors on the team. The good news is that North Texas has numerous starters back. The bad news? They are the same players who were only able to notch one win and allowed 47.6 points per game last year.

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|
| S.3 | @BALL STATE |
| S.12 | Ohio |
| S.19 | @ALABAMA |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**S.26 Middle Tennessee**

The Mean Green's Sun Belt opener is a chance to put away last year's disappointments and prove they are headed in the right direction.

| | |
|---|---|
| 0.10 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE |
| 0.17 | Florida Atlantic |
| 0.24 | @TROY |
| 0.31 | Western Kentucky |
| N.7 | Louisiana-Monroe |
| N.14 | @Florida International |
| N.21 | Army |
| N.28 | @ARKANSAS STATE |

Improvement is desperately needed on defense, as North Texas gave up an FBS-worst 482.6 yards per game in 2008. Along the line, end Eddrick Gilmore anchors a unit that must improve.

Linebackers Tobe Nwigwe (111 tackles in 2008) and Craig Robertson (94) need to continue their production. Sophomore safety Darien Williams had a strong debut in '08 with 62 tackles, while senior Antoine Bush is the top cover corner on the team.

Expect opposing defenses to stack the box, as North Texas has a stout running game but will break in a new quarterback who will lose his top target. Riley Dodge, the son of coach Todd Dodge, will likely take over the signal-calling job. He knows the attack but needs experience. At his disposal is a fine collection of backs, led by Cam Montgomery, who gained 928 yards rushing in '08.

Dodge will miss the services of graduated receiver Casey Fitzgerald (113 receptions, 1,119 yards).

At least the line should provide some time for growth, since all five starters return. Center Kelvin Drake, an all-league performer in 2007, missed last season due to injury but is back.

### QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 1-11 **Sun Belt:** 0-7

**Coach:** Todd Dodge, 3rd year (3-21)
**Career record:** 3-21
**Offensive coord.:** Todd Ford (3rd year)
**Defensive coord.:** Gary DeLoach (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Fouts Field (30,500)
**Tickets:** 800-UNT-2366
**Site:** Denton
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.meangreensports.com

## 9 WESTERN KENTUCKY HILLTOPPERS

Western Kentucky fans excited about their squad's ascension to full-fledged Division I status had better temper their enthusiasm, because this is likely to be a tough year for the Hilltoppers.

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT |
|---|---|
| S.5 | @TENNESSEE |
| S.12 | South Florida |
| S.19 | Central Arkansas |
| S.26 | @NAVY |
| 0.10 | Florida Internationa |
| 0.17 | Louisiana-Lafayette |
| 0.24 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**0.31 North Texas**

The Hilltoppers aren't likely to win many conference games this year, so this one could be the best chance for victory.

| | |
|---|---|
| N.7 | Troy |
| N.14 | @LOUISIANA-MONROE |
| N.28 | @FLORIDA ATLANTIC |
| D.3 | Arkansas State |

Western Kentucky played five Sun Belt opponents last year and lost all of those games by an average score of 28-16.

The Hilltoppers were shaky against the run, couldn't stop the pass and may be looking for a quarterback long into summer drills.

The offseason quarterback competition was fierce, as senior Brandon Smith was working with the first unit during the spring, but he hasn't fended off the challenges of redshirt freshmen Kawaun Jakes and Marcus Vasquez.

Whoever wins that battle will be helped by the return of all five starting offensive linemen and surehanded senior receiver Jake Gaebler (54 receptions, 4 TDs).

With no clear leader, the ground game will be taken care of largely by committee, but senior Tyrell Hayden (388 yards) should step up at some point.

Six starters are back on defense, but none should feel too comfortable after allowing 375.2 yards per game last year.

Linebacker Blake Boyd, who had 9.5 tackles for loss last year, returns, as do sophomore cornerbacks Ryan Beard (3 INTs) and Mark Santoro (2), who both have potential to make more big plays this season.

### QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 2-10

**Coach:** David Elson, 7th year (39-32)
**Career record:** 39-32
**Offensive coord.:** Walter Wells, 1st year
**Defensive coord.:** Mike Dietzel, 1st year

**Stadium:** L.T. Smith Stadium (17,500)
**Tickets:** 800-5-BIG-RED
**Site:** Bowling Green
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.wkusports.com

# NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH

TOP 25 PICK

By Al Lesar, *South Bend (Ind.) Tribune*

JIMMY CLAUSEN ▸ QB

## SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Nevada | |
| S.12 | @MICHIGAN | 35-17 |
| S.19 | Michigan State | 7-23 |
| S.26 | @PURDUE | 38-21 |
| O.3 | Washington | 33-7 |
| **GAME TO WATCH** | | |
| O.17 | USC | 3-38 |
| There are other rivalries, but this one measures a season. The Trojans have won seven in a row. | | |
| O.24 | Boston College | 0-17 |
| O.31 | @WASHINGTON STATE* | |
| N.7 | Navy | 27-21 |
| N.14 | @PITTSBURGH | 33-36 (OT) |
| N.21 | Connecticut | |
| N.28 | @STANFORD | 28-21 |

** at San Antonio*

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» FIESTA BOWL

BCS BOWL

**PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ B+**

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**
- Receivers Michael Floyd and Golden Tate make quarterback Jimmy Clausen look good.
- The Irish's running game needs improvement.
- With so many new faces on defense, the jury is still out on the team's blocking abilities.

Hiccup or harbinger?

How will a 49-21 Hawaii Bowl victory over Hawaii in 2008 factor into the Notre Dame football program's big picture?

Fighting Irish coach Charlie Weis' first four years on the job have been punctuated by more question marks than exclamation points.

Season No. 5 features an offense loaded with experience, a manageable schedule and a coach who is starting to embrace the wide spectrum of pressures and influences that come with the job.

"Until you've lived through those things—and Notre Dame is different than just about anyplace else—you can never be totally prepared," Weis says. "Even though you go into it thinking and saying you would be."

The Irish offense is constructed on the right arm of quarterback Jimmy Clausen.

In the win over the outmanned Warriors from Hawaii, as Weis tells it, Clausen "pitched a perfect game."

Clausen has the capability to be one of the nation's best this season. However, he might be pushed. Dayne Crist, who redshirted last season, is now in the mix.

Receivers Michael Floyd and Golden Tate give Clausen some legitimate big-play threats. Add in Duval Kamara and tight ends Kyle Rudolph and Mike Ragone, and the passing game is well-stocked.

Despite the amazing bowl performance in paradise, it's not enough to wipe out the memories of nightmarish losses to Syracuse and USC, as the Irish stumbled home to a 6-6 regular season.

Notre Dame's inability to generate any sort of consistency in the running game kept the passing attack from reaching its peak. After ranking 115th nationally (75.3 rushing yards a game) in 2007, the Irish were 100th (109.7) last year.

While four running backs—Armando Allen, Robert Hughes, James Aldridge and Jonas Gray—are back with experience, the door is ajar to give heralded freshman Cierre Wood a chance to emerge.

Aldridge could be moved to the fullback spot, since there's no experience there.

Four starters on the offensive line—Dan Wenger (center), Chris Stewart (right guard), Eric Olsen (left guard) and Sam Young (right tackle)—are back. Paul Duncan, a starter two years ago who missed last season after hip surgery, is the leading contender at left tackle.

Trevor Robinson, Matt Romine and Lane Clelland are all guys who could compete and find a role this season.

New offensive line coach Frank Verducci, who spent eight of the last 10 years in the NFL, has the recipe for a cohesive running game.

"It's just a group of special people coming together," Verducci says. "It's unselfishness. It's a willingness not to let the other guy down. It's an unselfish attitude where you're going to do your part and you don't care who gets the glory for it.

MARCUS SNOWDEN / ICON SMI

"It's the satisfaction of leaving something behind that you can look back on and call your own.

"It's people. You learn very early on, you can be the smartest guy in the world, but if you can't bring a group together, get them to focus as one and get them to care about each other, you don't stand much of a chance."

Pulling together on defense will be a priority. The Irish have just a handful of players with starting experience.

Nose tackle Ian Williams and defensive end Kerry Neal, who sat out the spring with injuries, have been through the wars. The player to watch will be redshirt freshman Kapron Lewis-Moore, who is penciled in as a starter at end though he never played a snap while sitting out last year.

"I'm just going to go out and do my thing," Lewis-Moore says. "I know I'm going to mess up sometimes. I've just got to keep working hard and do whatever I can to help the team get better."

It may take a while for the linebacker corps to shake out. Darius Fleming, Zeke Motta, Brian Smith, Toryan Smith, Steve Filer and David Posluszny are all candidates to start. Manti Te'o, last winter's Signing Day surprise as one of the hottest commodities of the recruiting season, will also get a serious look.

Harrison Smith, who was a linebacker last season, has been moved back to his more natural position, free safety. Sergio Brown appears to be the leader at strong safety. Robert Blanton, E.J. Banks, Raeshon McNeil and Darrin Walls, who started in 2007 but left school for "personal reasons" last year, are the top prospects at cornerback.

Allen, Floyd and Tate will be key components of Notre Dame's kickoff- and punt-return units. Eric Maust is back as the Irish punter and Brandon Walker, who recovered after a shaky start last year, returns at kicker.

Notre Dame's schedule isn't the "Murderer's Row" it's been in recent years.

The Irish open with Nevada, then play their Big Ten stint against Michigan, Michigan State and Purdue—three programs in the retooling stage. A home game with Washington and a neutral-site contest with Washington State in San Antonio are both contests against programs that struggled last year.

The true measure of the season, as usual, will boil down to an Oct. 17 home game against USC.

## RECRUITING REPORT

A casual follower of recruiting might find it odd to see one of Notre Dame's classes ranked outside of the nation's top 20, but the Irish signed just 18 prospects in 2009. As usual, it was a nationwide recruiting effort, with prospects coming to South Bend from all over.

Irish fans received good news when linebacker **Manti Te'o**, who many believed was headed to USC, committed to Notre Dame. Teo should be a defensive staple in the future. Four-star linebacker **Zeke Motta** of Vero Beach, Fla., is another big-time playmaker with excellent instincts.

On offense, guard **Chris Watt** was ranked as the nation's No. 2 prospect at his position by *Rivals.com*, and running back **Cierre Wood** was the No. 8 running back in the nation. Wide receiver **Shaquelle Evans** chose Notre Dame over USC.

While this class isn't big, it's high in quality. The offensive line will receive a big boost with four incoming prospects, and four linebackers should contribute upon their arrival in South Bend.

*–Mike Ferrell, Rivals.com*

## THE NEXT BIG THING *KAPRON LEWIS-MOORE, DE*

Kapron Lewis-Moore may not be the answer to Notre Dame's lack of experience at defensive end, but his athleticism and attitude can make him great. He sat out last season and added 15 pounds.

## RETURNING STAT LEADERS

### OFFENSE

**PASSING**

| Jimmy Clausen | GP | Effic. | Att-Cmp-Int | Pct. | Yds. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 13 | 132.5 | 268-440-17 | 60.9 | 3172 | 25 | 244 |

| RUSHING | GP | Att. | Net | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Armando Allen | 13 | 134 | 585 | 4.4 | 3 | 45 |

| RECEIVING | GP | No. | Yds. | Avg. | TD | Avg/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Golden Tate | 13 | 58 | 1080 | 18.6 | 10 | 83.1 |

### DEFENSE

| TACKLES | GP | Solo | Assist | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kyle McCarthy | 13 | 64 | 46 | 110 |

| SACKS | GP | No. | Yards |
|---|---|---|---|
| Harrison Smith | 13 | 3.5 | 26 |

| INTERCEPTIONS | No. | Yards | Avg. | TD |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Robert Blandon | 2 | 47 | 23.5 | 1 |

## 5-YEAR WINS TREND

## QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 7-6
*(beat Hawaii in the Hawaii Bowl, 49-21)*

**Coach:** Charlie Weis
5th year (29-21)
**Career record:** 29-21
**Offensive coordinator:**
Charlie Weis (1st year)
**Defensive coordinators:**
Jon Tenuta (2nd year)
Corwin Brown (2nd year)

**Stadium:** Notre Dame Stadium (80,795)
**Tickets:** 574-631-7356
**Site:** Notre Dame, Ind.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.und.com

## PROJECTED STARTERS

### OFFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 7 | Jimmy Clausen (6-3, 217, Jr.) |
| | 10 | Dayne Crist (6-4, 233, So.) |
| FB | 34 | James Aldridge (6-0, 258, Sr.) |
| | 30 | Steve Paskorz (6-2, 235, Jr.) |
| RB | 5 | Armando Allen (5-10, 195, Jr.) |
| | 33 | Robert Hughes (6-11, 237, Jr.) |
| LOT | 72 | Paul Duncan (6-7, 308, Sr.) |
| | 77 | Matt Romine (6-5, 292, Jr.) |
| LOG | 55 | Eric Olsen (6-4, 303, Sr.) |
| | 76 | Andrew Nuss (6-5, 304, Jr.) |
| C | 51 | Dan Wenger (6-4, 302, Sr.) |
| | 52 | Braxston Cave (6-3, 310, So.) |
| ROG | 59 | Chris Stewart (6-5, 337, Sr.) |
| | 78 | Trevor Robinson (6-5, 301, So.) |
| ROT | 74 | Sam Young (6-8, 330, Sr.) |
| | 75 | Taylor Deaver (6-5, 308, Jr.) |
| TE | 9 | Kyle Rudolph (6-6, 258, So.) |
| | 83 | Mike Ragone (6-5, 251, Jr.) |
| WR | 23 | Golden Tate (5-11, 195, Jr.) |
| | 18 | Duval Kamara (6-5, 219, Jr.) |
| WR | 3 | Michael Floyd (6-3, 215, So.) |
| | 82 | Robby Parris (6-3, 210, Sr.) |

### DEFENSE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 89 | Kapron Lewis-Moore (6-4, 265, r-So.) |
| | 53 | Morrice Richardson (6-2, 255, Sr.) |
| NT | 95 | Ian Williams (6-2, 310, Jr.) |
| | 99 | Brandon Newman (6-1, 310, So.) |
| DT | 9 | Ethan Johnson (6-4, 275, Jr.) |
| | 79 | Hafis Williams (6-1, 295, Jr.) |
| RDE | 90 | John Ryan (6-5, 264, Sr.) |
| | 91 | Emeka Nwankwo (6-4, 295, Jr.) |
| SLB | 45 | Darius Fleming (6-1, 236, So.) |
| | 41 | Scott Smith (6-3, 235, So.) |
| MLB | 58 | Brian Smith (6-3, 245, Jr.) |
| | 46 | Steve Filer (6-3, 236, So.) |
| WLB | 49 | Toryan Smith (6-1, 244, Sr.) |
| | 36 | David Posluszny (6-0, 220, So.) |
| CB | 8 | Raeshon McNeil (6-0, 190, Sr.) |
| | 26 | Jamoris Slaughter (6-0, 182, So.) |
| CB | 12 | Robert Blanton (6-1, 180, So.) |
| | 2 | Darrin Walls (6-0, 190, Sr.) |
| SS | 31 | Sergio Brown (6-2, 205, Sr.) |
| | 28 | Kyle McCarthy (6-0, 203, Sr.) |
| FS | 22 | Harrison Smith (6-2, 212, Jr.) |
| | 15 | Dan McCarthy (6-2, 200, So.) |

### SPECIALISTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 14 | Brandon Walker (6-3, 202, Jr.) |
| | 39 | Ryan Burkhart (5-11, 190, Sr.) |
| P | 43 | Eric Maust (6-2, 177, Sr.) |
| | 39 | Ryan Burkhart (5-11, 190, Sr.) |

*Sporting News All-American*

## 2008 TEAM STATS

| TEAM STATISTICS | ND | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| SCORING | 321 | 288 |
| Points Per Game | 24.7 | 22.2 |
| FIRST DOWNS | 250 | 232 |
| Rushing | 91 | 93 |
| Passing | 133 | 122 |
| Penalty | 26 | 17 |
| RUSHING YARDAGE | 1426 | 1744 |
| Yards gained rushing | 1764 | 2058 |
| Yards lost rushing | 338 | 314 |
| Rushing Attempts | 436 | 430 |
| Average Per Rush | 3.3 | 4.1 |
| Average Per Game | 109.7 | 134.2 |
| TDs Rushing | 11 | 18 |
| PASSING YARDAGE | 3190 | 2544 |
| Att-Comp-Int | 447-271-17 | 422-228-14 |
| Average Per Pass | 7.1 | 6.0 |
| Average Per Catch | 11.8 | 11.2 |
| Average Per Game | 245.4 | 195.7 |
| TDs Passing | 25 | 15 |
| TOTAL OFFENSE | 4616 | 4288 |
| Total Plays | 883 | 852 |
| Average Per Play | 5.2 | 5.0 |
| Average Per Game | 355.1 | 329.8 |
| KICK RETURNS: #-YDS | 52-1121 | 59-972 |
| PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS | 26-232 | 29-175 |
| INT RETURNS: #-YDS | 14-236 | 17-134 |

| TEAM STATISTICS | ND | OPP |
|---|---|---|
| KICK RETURN AVG. | 21.6 | 16.5 |
| PUNT RETURN AVG. | 8.9 | 6.0 |
| INT RETURN AVG. | 16.9 | 7.9 |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 23-11 | 17-11 |
| PENALTIES-YARDS | 70-649 | 95-834 |
| Average Per Game | 49.9 | 64.2 |
| PUNTS-YARDS | 56-2218 | 75-2794 |
| Average Per Punt | 39.6 | 37.3 |
| Net punt average | 35.1 | 33.4 |
| TIME OF POSS./GAME | 31:17 | 28:43 |
| 3RD-DOWN CONV. | 63/180 | 57/174 |
| 3rd-Down Pct. | 35% | 33% |
| 4TH-DOWN CONV. | 11/30 | 5/13 |
| 4th-Down Pct. | 37% | 38% |
| SACKS BY-YARDS | 26-195 | 22-185 |
| MISC YARDS | 0 | 0 |
| TDS SCORED | 40 | 35 |
| FG-ATTEMPTS | 14-24 | 15-21 |
| PAT-ATTEMPTS | 39-40 | 33-34 |
| ATTENDANCE | 484770 | 388210 |
| Games/Avg Per Game | 6/80795 | 6/64702 |
| Neutral Site Games | | 1/70932 |

| SCORE BY QTRS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | OT | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Notre Dame | 62 | 103 | 90 | 50 | 9 | 321 |
| Opponent | 36 | 89 | 57 | 94 | 12 | 288 |

INDEPENDENT

# NAVY
## MIDSHIPMEN

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @OHIO STATE | |
| S.12 | Louisiana Tech | |
| S.19 | @PITTSBURGH | 21-42 |
| S.26 | Western Kentucky | |
| 0.3 | Air Force | 33-27 |
| 0.10 | @RICE | |
| 0.17 | @SOUTHERN METHODIST | 34-7 |
| 0.24 | Wake Forest | 24-17 |
| 0.31 | Temple | 33-27 (OT) |
| N.7 | @NOTRE DAME | 21-27 |
| N.14 | Delaware | |
| N.28 | @HAWAII | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**D.12 Army* 34-0**

This one's a no-brainer. Seasons are won or lost with the outcome of this rivalry.

**at Philadephia*

### QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 8-5
*(lost to Wake Forest in the EagleBank Bowl, 29-19)*

**Coach:** Ken Niumatalolo
2nd year (8-6)
**Career record:** 8-6
**Offensive coordinator:**
Ivin Jasper (2nd year)
**Defensive coordinator:**
Buddy Green (8th season)

**Stadium:** Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (34,000)
**Tickets:** 800-US4-NAVY
**Site:** Annapolis, Md.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.navysports.com

### PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 4 | Ricky Dobbs (6-1, 194, Jr.) |
| SB | 28 | Marcus Curry (5-11, 207, So.) |
| SB | 33 | Bobby Doyle (5-11, 195, Sr.) |
| FB | 39 | Alex Teich (6-0,200, So.) |
| LOT | 61 | Jeff Battipaglia (6-4, 260, Jr.) |
| LOG | 79 | Osei Asante (6-1, 264, Sr.) |
| C | 75 | Brady DeMell (6-3, 295, So.) |
| ROG | 66 | Curtis Bass (6-1, 266, Sr.) |
| ROT | 70 | Matt Molloy (6-3, 280, Jr.) |
| WR | 85 | Mario Washington (5-9, 184, Jr.) |
| WR | 80 | Mike Schupp (5-10, 180, Jr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LDE | 98 | Jabaree Tuani (6-1, 242, So.) |
| NT | 99 | Nate Frazier (6-3, 287, Sr.) |
| RDE | 59 | Matt Nechak (6-4, 249, Sr.) |
| LOLB | 34 | Clint Sovie (5-10, 210, Sr.) |
| LILB | 50 | Tony Haberer (6-1, 225, Sr.) |
| RILB | 51 | Ross Pospisil (6-0, 223, Sr.) |
| ROLB | 55 | Travis Sudderth (6-2, 224, Jr.) |
| LCB | 1 | Blake Carter (5-11, 185, Sr.) |
| RCB | 15 | Kevin Edwards (6-2, 173, Jr.) |
| FS | 37 | Kwesi Mitchell (5-10, 191, So.) |
| RVR | 8 | Wyatt Middleton (6-0, 192, Jr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 45 | Jon Teague (6-3, 195, So.) |
| P | 35 | Kyle Delahooke (6-1, 202, Jr.) |

What can Ken Niumatalolo do for an encore?

He began his tenure as football coach at the Naval Academy last season with an 8-5 record, a sixth straight Commander-in-Chief's Trophy and a bowl appearance.

So it's safe to say expectations are high in Annapolis.

Shouldering much of the hype will be Ricky Dobbs. The junior quarterback showed signs of greatness last season, starting four games for the injured Kaipo-Noa Kaheaku-Enhada.

If Navy's triple-option attack is going to continue producing one of the top rushing offenses in the country, sophomore Marcus Curry and senior Bobby Doyle will have to earn their stripes at slotback. Paving the way for their production will be fullback Alex Teich.

"[Curry] is the type of slot back we are looking for if we could build the perfect slot—he is a guy that can do everything," Niumatalolo says. "He has the size to block and the speed to run and catch the ball. The learning curve of transferring everything from the classroom to the field still remains to be seen with him."

If Dobbs does throw, he'll have Mario Washington and Mike Schupp as targets.

Strength, in terms of the Navy defense, will come from the front seven. And if there's a face of the Midshipmen defense, it's that of linebacker Ross Pospisil. The senior made 106 tackles last season. Fellow senior Clint Sovie has been moved from inside linebacker to outside to allow him to use his speed. Ends Matt Nechak and Jabaree Tuani, and nose guard Nate Frazier make up the nucleus of the front line.

In the secondary, rover Wyatt Middleton has experience, and safety Kwesi Mitchell shot up the depth chart in spring practices.

**BOWL PROJECTION**
» EAGLEBANK BOWL

LOWER TIER BOWL

INDEPENDENT

# ARMY
## BLACK KNIGHTS

### SCHEDULE

| DATE | OPPONENT | '08 RESULT |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @EASTERN MICHIGAN | 17-13 |
| S.12 | Duke | |
| S.19 | Ball State | |
| S.26 | @IOWA STATE | |
| 0.3 | Tulane | 44-13 |
| 0.10 | Vanderbilt | |
| 0.17 | @TEMPLE | 7-35 |
| 0.23 | Rutgers | 3-30 |
| N.7 | @AIR FORCE | 7-16 |
| N.14 | Virginia Military | |
| N.21 | @NORTH TEXAS | |

**GAME TO WATCH**

**D.12 Navy* 0-34**

After seven straight losses to the Midshipmen, Army needs to buck the trend.

**at Philadephia*

### QUICK HITS

**2008 record:** 3-9

**Coach:** Rich Ellerson, 1st year
**Offensive coordinator:**
Ian Shields (1st year)
**Defensive coordinators:**
Payam Saadat (1st year)
Chris Smeland (1st year)

**Stadium:** Michie Stadium (40,000)
**Tickets:** 877-TIX-ARMY
**Site:** West Point, N.Y.
**Official athletic Web site:**
www.goarmysports.com

### PROJECTED STARTERS

**OFFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QB | 10 | Chip Bowden (6-0, 211, Jr.) |
| FB | 36 | CeDarius Williams (5-11, 203, So.) |
| SB | 5 | Patrick Mealy (5-8, 203, Jr.) |
| SB | 26 | Ian Smith (5-8, 180, Sr.) |
| LOT | 68 | Mike McDermott (6-7, 248, So.) |
| LOG | 72 | Mikel Weich (6-3, 277, Jr.) |
| C | 57 | Zachary Peterson (6-1, 267, Jr.) |
| ROG | 54 | Seth Reed (6-1, 266, Jr.) |
| ROT | 67 | Jason Johnson (6-3, 257, Sr.) |
| WR | 82 | Ali Villanueva (6-10, 283, Sr.) |
| WR | 7 | Damion Hunter (5-10, 166, Sr.) |

**DEFENSE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| QCK | 44 | Josh McNary (6-1, 225, Jr.) |
| LDT | 92 | Victor Ugenyi (6-3, 262, Sr.) |
| RDT | 93 | Mike Gann (6-2, 270, Jr.) |
| DE | 96 | Marcus Hilton (6-0, 247, Jr.) |
| WHP | 42 | Andrew Rodriguez (6-3, 210, So.) |
| MKE | 50 | Stephen Anderson (5-10, 219, Jr.) |
| RVR | 9 | Steve Erzinger (6-1, 215, So.) |
| FC | 1 | Mario Hill (6-0, 175, Sr.) |
| SAM | 21 | Desmond Lamb (6-2, 193, Jr.) |
| FS | 6 | Donovan Travis (6-1, 187, Jr.) |
| BC | 8 | Richard King (5-11, 190, Jr.) |

**SPECIALISTS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | 19 | Matthew Campbell (5-10, 181, Jr.) |
| P | 18 | Jonathan Bulls (6-1, 217, Jr.) |

Twelve straight losing seasons was enough for the Army brass. Salvaging the football program became a priority last December.

Normally a conservative bunch, the Army commanders made a bold statement by turning over the keys to the program to Rich Ellerson, a veteran coach who made a name for himself as an innovator for eight seasons at Cal Poly.

Ellerson's initial moves have been to install a triple-option offense and defensive version of the University of Arizona's "Desert Swarm" from two decades ago.

The Black Knights' new defense is predicated on speed and the ability to hit.

A double-eagle flex formation suits the personnel of an academy team because it is topheavy with linebackers and defensive backs.

Guys like rover Steve Erzinger, safety Donovan Travis and linemen Marcus Hilton and Victor Ugenyi are good fits for the new defense.

Ellerson brought the triple-option offense and coordinator Ian Shields with him from Cal Poly.

"[The passing game is] what separates how we run our spread option from other teams in the country," Shields says.

Last year, Cal Poly was second in the Football Championship Subdivision in passing efficiency.

"The No. 1 statistic in NCAA football that correlated with winning football games was passing efficiency," Shields says. "So [pass efficiency's] a big thing."

Chip Bowden returns to quarterback with experience, as does Carson Williams. Freshmen Max Jenkins and Jimmy Reitter provide talent for the triple-option.

Ian Smith and Patrick Mealy are running backs with experience, while seniors Ali Villanueva and Damion Hunter are the leading receivers coming back.

# FCS OVERVIEW

## Spiders have what it takes to get through a tangled FCS web and repeat as national champs

**By Matt McKenzie,** *Sporting News*

Richmond went into the 2008 Football Championship Subdivision playoffs with an at-large bid after finishing third in the always-tough Colonial Athletic Association. The Spiders were expected to win only one game, as the second-round matchup would pit them against then three-time defending champion Appalachian State in Kidd Brewer Stadium—where it's almost impossible to come away with a road victory.

But coach Mike London and the Spiders weren't ready to step aside.

After a shocking upset of the Mountaineers (the No. 2 seed in the playoffs), Richmond went on to defeat Northern Iowa (No. 3) at the UNI Dome, another tough road venue, and capped the run with a 24-7 win over Montana (No. 4) for the school's first national championship.

Not a bad first year for London, who was a defensive assistant at Virginia and played defensive back for the Spiders from 1979-83.

"That's probably a big understatement," says London, laughing. "It's kind of one of those closet memories that you have and want to keep. I wanted to prove that I belonged, that I can coach. My job was to get the team ready and put the plan and philosophy in place.

"As we went along the way, we never lost sight this was a playoff-caliber team. And it turned out to be a storybook season."

With 16 starters returning, the Spiders won't be sneaking up on anyone this year. London is now faced with the challenge of becoming just the fourth school in history to repeat as back-to-back FCS champion.

"Every year, you have to find the identity of your team," he says. "You have two choices: Do better or give up. There's no No. 3. That's what I try to instill in the players. And now that they've gotten a taste of what a championship is like and how it feels to be there, they know what it takes to get back."

When London was hired at Richmond, he wanted to bring in a "new year, new culture [and] new vibe." And it didn't take long for his teachings to sink in with the players. Returning senior quarterback Eric Ward set a single-season school record last year by completing 64.1 percent of his passes, while the Spiders collected a program-best 29 interceptions on the other side of the ball.

Right behind Richmond is the team it defeated in the quarterfinals, Appalachian State. Prior to the Spiders' 33-13 victory, London says he knew what the team was up against.

"They were Apollo Creed and we were Rocky Balboa," he says. "I said, 'We've got to run to the middle of the ring and start throwing punches.' What happens when you come out of

**Eric Ward,** Richmond

### TOP 25

| | |
|---|---|
| #1 | Richmond |
| 2 | Appalachian State |
| 3 | Villanova |
| 4 | Northern Iowa |
| 5 | Montana |
| 6 | Southern Illinois |
| 7 | Weber State |
| 8 | New Hampshire |
| 9 | Elon |
| 10 | James Madison |
| 11 | Central Arkansas |
| 12 | William & Mary |
| 13 | Eastern Washington |
| 14 | Maine |
| 15 | Cal Poly |
| 16 | Massachusetts |
| 17 | Montana State |
| 18 | Wofford |
| 19 | McNeese State |
| 20 | Georgia Southern |
| 21 | Northern Arizona |
| 22 | Colgate |
| 23 | Samford |
| 24 | Jacksonville State |
| 25 | South Carolina State |

MARVIN GENTRY / US PRESSWIRE; OPPOSITE PAGE (L TO R): JEREMY BREVARD / ICON SMI; COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS; MARK CAMPBELL / UD ATHLETICS MEDIA RELATIONS

## QUICK HITS

**1** Beginning in 2010, the current 16-team FCS playoff field will expand to 20 teams. The NCAA Board of Directors approved the move last April and, as part of the expansion, the Big South and Northeast conferences will receive automatic bids.

Next year, the FCS postseason will have 10 automatic bids (Big Sky, Big South, Colonial, Gateway, MEAC, NEC, Ohio Valley, Patriot, Southern and Southland) and 10 at-large bids rather than the current field of eight automatic and eight at-large invitations. Another new wrinkle under the new format: Eight teams will be seeded instead of the current four.

**2** Appalachian State shocked the football world with its upset over Michigan two years ago, and was one of eight FCS teams to beat an FBS squad (North Dakota State won twice, at Central Michigan and Minnesota). Last year? Not so much. There were only two FCS-over-FBS victories, as Cal Poly took down San Diego State 29-27 and New Hampshire defeated Army 28-10. Here are four games in 2009 that are potential FCS upsets:

› **North Dakota State at Iowa State:** The Bison won't be awed by playing an FBS team, with two such wins already under their belt (Central Michigan and Minnesota in 2007). Iowa State is rebuilding under first-year coach Paul Rhoads, who may find his Cyclones' season debut disastrous.

› **Appalachian State at East Carolina:** Like NDSU, Appalachian State is no stranger to beating an FBS team. The Mountaineers return nearly every key component from last year, and ASU fans will be traveling in bunches on the in-state trip to Greenville.

› **Delaware at Navy:** One of the most-talked-about FCS transfers this year is former Penn State quarterback Pat Devlin, who was one of the top five prep quarterbacks in 2006, according to *Rivals.com*. Delaware defeated Navy two seasons ago behind Joe Flacco's (another high-profile FBS-to-FCS transfer) four touchdown passes, and Devlin could be the key to another upset.

› **Richmond at Duke:** The defending FCS national champion will begin its quest for back-to-back titles against a program that has long struggled, as the Blue Devils have just 14 wins over the last nine seasons. In a role reversal, Spiders coach Mike London says the team "isn't looking past Duke" while referring to Richmond's slate in the Colonial, arguably the toughest FCS conference.

**3** The FCS independents lost two members in Presbyterian (Big South) and Marist (Pioneer), while a third, Iona, dropped football last November. Old Dominion will join the ranks this season for two years before officially moving to the Colonial, while Bryant, North Carolina Central and Savannah State are the only holdovers from last year. Bryant will become a full member of the NEC in 2012 while N.C. Central and Savannah State applied for admission to the MEAC earlier this year, but no decision had been made on those applications as of press time.

## TOP PLAYERS

**OFFENSE**

**Armanti Edwards, QB**
Appalachian State

**DEFENSE**

**Larry Hart, DE**
Central Arkansas

**NEWCOMER**

**Pat Devlin, QB**
Delaware

that [is] you realize you can play with anyone. We only had to prove it to ourselves. There were a lot of people who doubted us. That made the fact we went into one of the hardest places to play and came out and won that much better."

Mountaineers coach Jerry Moore says his team, which had six turnovers in that contest, simply "didn't play as well as we usually did."

"But you can't go stick your head in the sand because of one game," Moore says. "You've got to be realistic of why you didn't play well and move on. We've had 29 surgeries since Aug. 1, 2008—that's darn near half our players. So, yeah, there was a lot of disappointment last year, and we were somewhat shocked. But you can't just assume things; you've got to make things happen."

Increasing the level of play for ASU the last three years has been quarterback Armanti Edwards, the 2008 Walter Payton Award winner (given to the top offensive FCS player) and the leading candidate for the honor this year. The senior is one of those players who went under the knife (Edwards had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee), but is expected back once the season starts.

"He's such a competitor that you have to think he's just going to explode during his senior year," Moore says of Edwards. "His work ethic, conditioning … all the little things great players like him do make me look forward to a great year from him."

As for other teams ready to challenge Richmond for the top spot, the Spiders need to look no further than their own conference. The Colonial boasts seven Top 25 teams on our preseason list, including four (Richmond, Villanova, New Hampshire and James Madison) in the top 10.

"We now have four national champions in our conference," London says. "North to south, good gracious, you have to bring your 'A' game and play at a high level all the time.

"I just tell the players, 'All that matters is what you do between those white lines.' That was the message last year and will continue to be. We've got a lot to prove to ourselves and others that last year wasn't a fluke."

### SportingNews FCS ALL-AMERICA TEAM

**OFFENSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| QB | Armanti Edwards (6-0, 200, Sr.) Appalachian State |
| RB | Trevyn Smith (5-9, 210, Sr.) Weber State |
| RB | Will Ford (5-11, 185, Sr.) South Carolina State |
| OL | Matthew McCracken (6-4, 291, r-Sr.) Richmond |
| OL | James Williams (6-5, 295, Sr.) Harvard |
| OL | Dorian Brooks (6-3, 285, r-Sr.) James Madison |
| OL | Jeff Hansen (6-4, 290, r-Sr.) Montana State |
| OL | Austin Steichen (6-3, 300, r-Sr.) Northern Iowa |
| WR | Andre Roberts (5-11, 170, Sr.) Citadel |
| WR | Terrell Hudgins (6-3, 235, Sr.) Elon |
| TE | Scott Sicko (6-3, 230, Sr.) New Hampshire |
| K | Andrew Samson (6-1, 180, Jr.) Penn |
| RS | LeRoy Vann (5-9, 182, Sr.) Florida A&M |

**DEFENSE**

| | |
|---|---|
| DL | Larry Hart (6-1, 242, Sr.) Central Arkansas |
| DL | James Ruffin (6-4, 265, r-Sr.) Northern Iowa |
| DL | Austen Lane (6-6, 250, Sr.) Murray State |
| DL | Tim Knicky (6-4, 235, Sr.) Stephen F. Austin |
| LB | Jacque Roman (6-1, 240, Sr.) Appalachian State |
| LB | Jeffrey Williams (6-0, 221, Jr.) Gardner-Webb |
| LB | Osayi Osunde (6-1, 235, Sr.) Villanova |
| LB | Scott Lewis (5-11, 200, Jr.) St. Francis (Pa.) |
| DB | Mark LeGree (6-0, 200, Jr.) Appalachian State |
| DB | Tommy Connors (6-0, 205, Sr.) SE Louisiana |
| DB | Carnell Clark (6-2, 183, Sr.) Jacksonville State |
| DB | Charles Graves (6-0, 195, Sr.) Delaware |
| P | Doug Spada (6-1, 190, Sr.) SE Missouri State |

# BIG SKY

### PREDICTIONS

1. Montana
2. Weber State
3. Eastern Washington
4. Montana State
5. Northern Arizona
6. Portland State
7. Northern Colorado
8. Sacramento State
9. Idaho State

**TOP PLAYERS**

**Offense** Cameron Higgins, *QB, Weber State*

**Defense** Dane Fletcher, *DE, Montana State*

**Newcomer** Brandyn Reed, *WR, Sacramento State*

**GAME TO WATCH**

**10/31/09**
**Weber State at Montana**

After last year's epic battles between the Grizzlies and the Wildcats, this Halloween Day matchup will likely decide who emerges as the Big Sky champion.

## Grizzlies, Wildcats will be clawing for top of Sky

**By Mike Sorensen**
*The (Salt Lake City) Deseret News*

When Weber State knocked off perennial league champion Montana early in the 2008 season, it appeared there might be a new king in the Big Sky Conference.

But that notion didn't last long. The two schools tied for the regular-season championship at 7-1 and met in the quarterfinals of the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs, where Montana got revenge with a 24-13 victory. Eventually, the Grizzlies progressed to the FCS championship game, losing to Richmond 24-7.

This year looks like another battle between the Grizzlies and the Wildcats, who should both advance to the FCS postseason again.

Nipping at the heels of Weber State and Montana is Eastern Washington. With several top players back, the Eagles could also contend for the title. However, a national championship run may be impossible. In February, the university was placed on three years of probation, including a postseason ban for 2009, which the school is appealing. The program had a series of secondary rule violations from 2003-07 under former Eagles coach Paul Wulff (now head coach at Washington State), which led to a major infractions case.

Every other team in the league looks improved, but none are likely to challenge for the Big Sky crown.

**Montana** (14-2 overall, 7-1 Big Sky) lost several key players from last year's national runner-up team, including quarterback Cole Bergquist and All-America safety Colt Anderson. But with the Grizzlies, it's never a matter of rebuilding, just reloading. Montana returns running back Chase Reynolds (1,583 rushing yards, 22 TDs) and wide receiver Marc Mariani (69 catches, 1,308 yards, 15 TDs). Junior Andrew Selle is the leading candidate at quarterback.

Defensively, coach Bobby Hauck will count on end Jace Palmer, linebacker Shawn Lebsock, safety Shann Schillinger and cornerback Trumaine Johnson.

Under coach Ron McBride, **Weber State** (10-3, 7-1) produced one of its finest seasons in school history in 2008. Only a loss to Eastern Washington kept the Wildcats from an unbeaten league record. Weber State returns eight starters from an offense that averaged a league-best 35.2 points and 455.3 yards per game. Leading the way are quarterback Cameron Higgins (4,477 passing yards, 36 TDs) and running back Trevyn Smith (1,585 yards, 21 TDs).

The Wildcats lost some high-profile players on defense, but return a pair of first-team all-conference picks in end Kevin Linehan and safety Beau Hadley.

Hailed as a conference title contender at the start of last season, **Eastern Washington** (6-5, 5-3) struggled before closing with a three-game winning streak. The Eagles return 15 starters, including quarterback Matt Nichols, the 2007 Big Sky Offensive MVP. Wide receivers Aaron Boyce, Brynsen Brown and Tony Davis, who combined for 166 catches, 2,229 yards and 17 touchdowns in 2008, all return.

Twin brothers Matt and Zach Johnson (179 tackles combined) will lead the Eagles' defense.

**Montana State** (7-5, 5-3) returns seven starters from the league's top defensive team, led by end Dane Fletcher, who registered 14.5 tackles for loss and 6.5 sacks before injuring his knee. Safety Kevin Retoriano (58 tackles, 3 INTs) earned first-team all-league honors.

On offense, Cody Kempt is the leading quarterback candidate after playing seven games last season. Guard Jeff Hansen was second-team All-Big Sky and also earned honorable mention All-America honors.

**Northern Arizona** (6-5, 4-4) started hot last year, going 4-0 in league play before losing its last four games. The Lumberjacks led the nation in rushing defense (59.8 ypg) and sacks (42).

Junior Michael Herrick, who transferred from Ole Miss last year, is expected to take over at quarterback after passing for 1,043 yards as the backup for NAU in '08.

**Portland State** (4-7, 3-5) returns 16 starters, including eight on offense. Under former NFL head coach Jerry Glanville, the Vikings have led the nation in passing offense each of the last two seasons, averaging 372.2 yards per game in 2008. Quarterback Drew Hubel is back with a load of receivers, including Aaron Woods, who was sixth in the nation in all-purpose yards per game (178.9) last season, and Mario D'Ambrosio, who led the team with 76 catches.

Entering its fourth season in the Big Sky, **Northern Colorado** (1-10, 1-7) is ready to start winning. Although the Bears won just one game last year, they showed signs of competitiveness.

Quarterback Bryan Waggener (2,546 yards, 14 TDs), a transfer from Florida, leads a group of 17 returning starters.

**Sacramento State** (6-6, 3-5) hit the .500 mark in '08, but the Hornets will miss leading rusher Bryan Hilliard, who is out for the year recovering from shoulder surgery. Jason Smith (16 TDs, 6 INTs) returns at quarterback and has a new target in junior-college transfer Brandyn Reed, who had 61 catches for 1,195 yards and 16 TDs at Santa Rosa (Calif.) Junior College last season.

The defense is led by cornerback Deionte Gordon, who picked off four passes as a freshman in 2008.

**Idaho State** (1-11, 1-7) returns 14 starters from last year, which may not mean much since the Bengals tied for last in the Big Sky. Quarterback Russell Hill (2,634 passing yards, 14 TDs) returns, along with tailback Clint Knickrehm (456 rushing yards).

# BIG SOUTH

## To gain a playoff bid, Big South teams need perfection on field

**By Chris Lang**
*The (Lynchburg, Va.) News & Advance*

When it comes to the Football Championship Subdivision postseason, there is no margin for error in the Big South. Liberty coach Danny Rocco got a painful reminder of that in November when his conference champion Flames were left out of the 16-team playoff field despite winning 10 games for the first time in school history.

An early-November loss at Presbyterian, which joins the Big South this season, doomed the Flames' chances for playoff inclusion despite not losing a conference game since falling at Coastal Carolina in October 2006.

Until the Big South gains an automatic bid to the expanded 20-team FCS playoffs in 2010, the conference champion better be perfect if it wants a spot in the field.

Rocco faces his first retooling job at **Liberty** (10-2 overall, 5-0 Big South) since 2006, as he must replace tailback Rashad Jennings, three-year starting quarterback Brock Smith, top receivers Dominic Bolden and Jonathan Crawford, four-year starting center Mike Godsil and three of four regulars in the secondary. Rocco also had to rework his staff thanks to the loss of offensive coordinator Scott Wachenheim (Washington Redskins) and defensive line coach/special teams coordinator Chad Wilt (Virginia).

But there were signs last year that Liberty could handle such big losses. Unheralded players such as linebackers Chad Brown and Jamal Giddens and tailback B.J. Hayes came from nowhere to be key contributors. Plus, Liberty adds transfers from Football Bowl Subdivision schools. Freddie Brown (South Carolina) and Ervin Garner (Virginia Tech) will compete at receiver. Tommy Beecher (South Carolina) will join the hunt for the starting quarterback spot with teammates Spencer Landis and Mike Brown.

**Coastal Carolina** (6-6, 1-4) remains the only Big South team ever to earn an at-large playoff bid. But that 2006 season is a distant memory for a team that needed to rally at Gardner-Webb to avoid a winless conference record in '08. In the offseason, coach David Bennett promoted seven-year quarterbacks coach Kevin Brown to offensive coordinator with hopes of adding power to Coastal's run game. The Chanticleers will need a healthy Eric O'Neal, who missed two games with a high ankle sprain last season, for that to happen.

Coastal should be strong in the secondary, as sophomores Josh Norman and Marcus Lott saw a lot of playing time as freshmen.

Mario Brown, the 2008 preseason Big South Defensive Player of the Year, missed most of last season with an injury, but returns this year to anchor the defense for **Gardner-Webb** (5-6, 2-3). While Brown was out in 2008, linebacker Jeffrey Williams picked up the slack, being named Big South Defensive Player of the Year. Cornerback Cedric McGowan returns, as does second-team All-Big South honorees Marty Patterson (linebacker) and Jordan Woods (end).

Senior Stan Doolittle figures to start at quarterback after splitting time with graduated Devin Campbell the last two years. However, Doolittle threw more interceptions (6) than touchdowns (4) in '08.

**Stony Brook** (5-6, 3-2) found success in its first year in the conference, but the Seawolves struggled defensively last season. As a result, coach Chuck Priore scrapped the 3-4 defense in favor of the 4-3 scheme. Stony Brook will build around its talented linebacker corps, which includes the top two tacklers from 2008, Tyler Santucci and Stephen Schwicke.

Offensively, the Seawolves have the league's best backfield in Conte Cuttino and Edwin Gowins, who was the Big South Freshman of the Year in '08. Dayne Hoffman started at quarterback last season, but will compete with Dan Sweeney for the job this fall.

**VMI** (4-7, 1-4) returns 10 starters on offense and nine on defense, and could be a dark horse in the conference race. But the team needs to improve on defense. The Keydets allowed 438.3 yards per game and gave up 40 or more points four times in '08.

The FCS' top running game returns intact. All five starting offensive linemen are back, as is slotback Tim Maypray and running back Howard Abegesah. Maypray battled concussions and other injuries last season but still rushed for 1,266 yards and 12 touchdowns.

**Charleston Southern** (7-5, 3-2) has been looking for stability at quarterback since Collin Drafts led the program to a share of the Big South title in 2005. The Buccaneers hope one of two junior-college transfers—A.J. Toscano or Andrew Trudnowski—will take the helm. Toscano saw limited time in '08, while Trudnowski set every passing record at Los Angeles (Calif.) Harbor College during his two years there. Even with a good quarterback, the Bucs must rebuild their line. Also, receiver is a weak spot, as only Gerald Stevenson comes back.

There's promise on defense as end Joel Walton, a transfer from Arizona Western College, should boost CSU's front four.

**Presbyterian** (4-8), which was an FCS independent last year, accomplished a rare feat in the Big South by beating Liberty. Now, new coach Harold Nichols, who has spent time as an assistant at Rhode Island and Bucknell, replaces Bobby Bentley. Returning is quarterback Tim Webb, whose last two seasons ended early due to injuries. Also back is sophomore Brandon Miley.

Nichols expects big things on defense from cornerback Justin Bethel and end Derren Evans. The sophomore pair are building toward the 2011 season, when the Blue Hose will be eligible for the league championship and an FCS playoff berth.

### PREDICTIONS

1. Liberty
2. Coastal Carolina
3. Gardner-Webb
4. Stony Brook
5. VMI
6. Charleston Southern
7. Presbyterian

### GAME TO WATCH

**10/17/09**
**Coastal Carolina at Liberty**

The Chanticleers are eager to return the Big South championship trophy to Conway, S.C., but they'll have to beat Liberty first. The Flames have won the last two meetings between the teams.

### TOP PLAYERS

**Offense** Tim Maypray, *SB, VMI*
**Defense** Mario Brown, *LB, Gardner-Webb*
**Newcomer** Joel Walton, *DE, Charleston Southern*

FCS

# COLONIAL

## PREDICTIONS

**NORTH**

1 New Hampshire
2 Maine
3 Massachusetts
4 Hofstra
5 Rhode Island
6 Northeastern

**SOUTH**

1 Richmond
2 Villanova
3 James Madison
4 William & Mary
5 Delaware
6 Towson

**TOP PLAYERS**

**Offense** R.J. Toman, *QB, New Hampshire*
**Defense** Osayi Osunde, *LB, Villanova*
**Newcomer** Pat Devlin, *QB, Delaware*

CAA FOOTBALL

**GAME TO WATCH**

**10/10/09**
Richmond @ James Madison

In last season's thriller, James Madison won 38-31 in the final seconds of the game with a punt return by Scotty McGee. The defending national FCS champs will be seeking revenge, but McGee is back and JMU has the best home-field advantage in the league.

FCS

## Colonial stacked with bevy of FCS title contenders

**By John O'Connor**
*Richmond Times-Dispatch*

University of Richmond coach Mike London refers to the Colonial Athletic Association as the Southeastern Conference of the Football Championship Subdivision.

London's Spiders won the 2008 FCS title after finishing third in the six-team CAA South Division, a reflection of the 12-team league's quality. From 1998-2008, four CAA programs captured national championships (Massachusetts in '98, Delaware in '03, James Madison in '04 and Richmond last season).

"If you're at the top of the CAA, you're at the top of the nation," Towson athletic director Mike Hermann says.

Five CAA squads advanced to the 16-team playoffs in 2007 and, again, five went in '08. Prior to those achievements, no conference had ever sent more than four teams to the postseason in one year.

Four different CAA teams have played in the national championship game in five of the last six years. In the final 2008 FCS poll, six Colonial teams ranked in the top 20.

London says the competition within the CAA is the survival of the fittest.

"On any Saturday, you've got to be at your best," he says.

Richmond returns 18 of 24 starters (including kickers), but the Spiders aren't the favorites to win the South. The competitive division also features JMU, which didn't lose a 2008 regular-season game to an FCS member; a Delaware team featuring 24 players with experience as starters; a veteran Villanova outfit coming off a 10-3 season; and William & Mary, which went 7-4 and returns most of its difference-makers.

In the North Division, playoff regular New Hampshire will battle for the top with a resurgent Maine squad.

### NORTH DIVISION

The streak is expected to go on for defending North Division champion **New Hampshire** (10-3 overall, 6-2 CAA), which has advanced to the FCS playoffs five straight seasons and beaten an Football Bowl Subdivison member in four of the last five years.

Senior tight end Scott Sicko was named a 2008 FCS All-American after averaging 13.6 yards per catch and 55.0 per game. Junior R.J. Toman is back at quarterback after passing for a league-high 28 touchdowns in the eclectic offense of coach Sean McDonnell.

Senior running back Chad Kackert is a threat as a runner and receiver in a Wildcats setup that uses multiple formations and motions. New Hampshire averaged 35.6 points and 404.2 offensive yards a game in reaching the FCS quarterfinals again in '08.

Look for UNH to improve defensively with all four linemen back, led by 2008 CAA co-Defensive Rookie of the Year Brian McNally, a pass-rushing force. Four of five secondary starters also return as the Wildcats again look to be one of the Colonial's best at forcing turnovers and converting them to points. Twice last season UNH scored on 100-yard interception returns.

**Maine** (8-5, 5-3) coach Jack Cosgrove believes in running the football, and the Black Bears return three of their top four backs, including 6-2, 232-pound fullback Jared Turcotte (625 rushing yards), and three starting offensive linemen.

Senior quarterback Michael Brusko can also run the ball effectively. He took over as Maine's starter midway through last season and helped the Black Bears win six straight on the way to the FCS playoffs. Offensive diversity could help Maine reach the postseason after it finished 11th out of 12 CAA teams in pass offense and 10th in third-down conversions last year.

With a defense that needs a big-play guy after graduating 2008 CAA Defensive Player of the Year Jovan Belcher, senior linebacker Mark Masterson should nicely fill the shoes with his own play-making abilities.

In 1998, **Massachusetts** (7-5, 4-4) started a junior-college quarterback from California, Todd Bankhead, and the Minutemen won that season's national championship. Can history repeat that feat?

Kyle Havens, a 6-3 quarterback from Diablo Valley College, joins UMass this season to fortify the operation of first-year coach Kevin Morris. Previously the program's offensive coordinator for the last five seasons, Morris takes over for Don Brown, who is now Maryland's defensive coordinator. With Morris as offensive coordinator, UMass won 30 of 40 league games.

Gone is Liam Coen, who holds most of the school's passing records. However, UMass returns All-CAA running back Tony Nelson, who gained 1,356 yards last season as a junior, and All-CAA wide receiver Victor Cruz. Jeremy Horne is another capable wideout.

Three of the front four on defense return along with well-regarded linebacker Josh Jennings. Defensive back Jeromy Miles leads a secondary that lost two outstanding cornerbacks in Sean Smalls and Courtney Robinson.

**Hofstra**'s (4-8, 2-6) first goal is to stay healthy. The Pride lost a pair of quarterbacks and other regulars last season to injuries, many of them season-ending.

Junior-college quarterback Coy Glass hails from California and, assuming he wins the job, will have one of the CAA's best talents, junior Aaron Weaver, as a

top target. Weaver, who made 70 catches in 2008, also contributes as a running back and return man.

Freshman running back Brock Jackolski was good in spurts last season, averaging 23.8 yards per kickoff return. The Pride seeks defensive support for standout linebacker Luke Bonus, a 5-10, 205-pounder who averaged eight tackles a game last season.

Over three short winter months, Joe Trainer left **Rhode Island** (3-9, 1-7), and then came back.

Trainer relinquished his post as the Rams' defensive coordinator to accept a job on the Bowling Green staff, but returned to fill the head-coaching hole left by Darren Rizzi, who unexpectedly departed to become an assistant with the Miami Dolphins after just one season with the Rams.

Rhode Island will try to overcome its instability and 1-7 Colonial record from 2008 with productive running backs Joe Casey (who returns after breaking his leg last year) and Jimmy Hughes, as well as versatile Brandon Johnson-Farrell, an accomplished wide receiver and kick returner.

Still, URI has work to do on the offensive line after allowing a league-high 26 sacks in 2008.

On defense, the young Rams surrendered an average of 32 points last season, but will toughen up behind linebacker Matt Hansen.

A more agreeable schedule gives **Northeastern** hope. A beat-up Huskies team went 2-10 (1-7 CAA) last year while playing a pair of FBS opponents (Ball State and Syracuse) and seven road games. With 13 starters back, Northeastern will leave New England only once this season, traveling to face Youngstown State.

Coach Rocky Hager will rely on a senior-laden defense led by lineman Jason Vega and linebacker Phil Higgins.

Offensively, the Huskies seek a new quarterback, but the pass-catching options are good with 6-3 senior Tony Lott, speedy junior Greg Abelli and 6-6, 253-pound junior tight end Conor Gilmartin-Donohue. Northeastern will look to replace running back Alex Broomfield, one of the finest players in school history (3,541 all-purpose yards).

**SOUTH DIVISION**

**Richmond** (13-3, 6-2) won the 2008 FCS title with a team made up mostly of sophomores and juniors, so don't expect much of a drop-off.

Quarterback Eric Ward is a four-year starter who knows game management. His stats aren't eye-catching, but the 6-3, 213-pounder finds ways to move the chains. The Spiders need a running back to work behind experienced blockers, and their defensive line will miss star ends Lawrence Sidbury and Sherman Logan, who helped Richmond hold opponents to an average of 15.6 points in 2008.

Big-play receptions will come from 6-3 junior Kevin Grayson, while his former high school teammate, junior Eric McBride, could be the league's top outside linebacker. But it was junior Justin Rogers who made seven interceptions in 2008—two went for touchdowns—and gave Richmond good field position with kickoff returns, so look for him to do the same this year.

Coach Mike London's staff lost a few members following the national championship, most notably defensive coordinator Russ Huesman, who left to be the head coach at Chattanooga. He was replaced by Vic Shealy, son of former Spiders coach Dal Shealy.

Scoring on **Villanova** (10-3, 7-1) won't be easy with Osayi Osunde and eight other returning defensive starters. Osunde, a senior born in Nigeria, leads a group of disruptive linebackers.

Preparing for the Wildcats' offense gets tricky because junior Matt Szczur jabs defenses as a runner, wide receiver and, occasionally, a thrower. Villanova will also keep defenses guessing with junior quarterback Chris Whitney, a tough athlete who has a knack for winning.

An offensive line with four returning starters gets a big push from 6-4, 325-pound junior tackle Ben Ijalana, but Villanova's defensive line must replace standout Greg Miller.

Four playoff appearances in the last five years show **James Madison** (12-2, 8-0) has things in order, so the loss of ultra-productive quarterback Rodney Landers (who totaled 6,255 yards of total offense the last two years) shouldn't debilitate the Dukes.

Thirteen starters are back to pick up the new quarterback, which will either be junior Drew Dudzik or redshirt freshman Justin Thorpe. James Madison's 2008 averages of 38.1 points and 401.4 yards a game may not be duplicated, but a solid defensive line featuring seniors Sam Daniels and Arthur Moats should keep the Dukes tough.

James Madison also needs to replace running back Eugene Holloman, but junior Griff Yancey has experience. Receivers Rockeed McCarter (6-3) and Bosco Williams (6-2) will give short cornerbacks fits.

If you're projecting a CAA surprise champ, look at **William & Mary** (7-4, 5-3). The Tribe made needed strides on defense last season and returns from that group three standouts: senior end and pass-rushing specialist Adrian Tracy, sophomore linebacker Jake Trantin and senior safety David Caldwell.

Coach Jimmye Laycock's teams have been among the league's top scorers, but this season's edition comes with a twist, as senior R.J. Archer starts his first year at quarterback after having been a solid W&M receiver.

But he'll have teammates backing him. As a true freshman in '08, Jonathan Grimes averaged 162.0 all-purpose yards and was named the league's Offensive Rookie of the Year. Rob Varno, a 6-5 tight end, and 6-2 wide receiver Chase Hill are both targets with good hands. The key to the Tribe's season will be the development of the offensive line.

Coming off a school-record eight losses, **Delaware** (4-8, 2-6) looks to regroup on offense, the root of last season's uncharacteristic struggle (17.5 ppg).

The defense is sound, with senior Matt Marcorelle (15 career sacks) expected to move to middle linebacker from defensive end. And Delaware may have the best secondary in the FCS, led by senior safety Charles Graves.

The Blue Hens hope Penn State transfer Pat Devlin, a junior, can ride to the rescue at quarterback, but they need a consistent ball carrier, which was missing last year. If Devlin, a highly rated recruit when he signed with the Nittany Lions, comes through, the Hens may elevate.

Homecoming came during the offseason at **Towson** (3-9, 1-7), where former Tigers wide receiver Rob Ambrose was named head coach.

Ambrose, who was previously a member of the Connecticut staff, will attempt to lift Towson from the bottom of the South Division without departed quarterback Sean Schaefer, who passed for 300 or more yards 15 times as a four-year starter. However, the Tigers do return Matt Castor, who rushed for 543 yards last year as a junior despite missing four games with injuries.

But Towson's primary challenge is defensive improvement after allowing a league-high 35.2 points per game last year.

# GREAT WEST

**PREDICTIONS**

1. Cal Poly
2. UC Davis
3. North Dakota
4. South Dakota
5. Southern Utah

**TOP PLAYERS**

**Offense** » Greg Denham, *QB, UC Davis*
**Defense** » Asa Jackson, *CB, Cal Poly*
**Newcomer** » Brent Bettencourt, *DE, UC Davis*

**GAME TO WATCH**

**11/7/09** »
Cal Poly @ UC Davis

These two California teams touted the only winning conference records last season and they look to be on top this year, too. This matchup will determine the league's best in 2009.

## Mustangs have horsepower to win the West

**By Steve Silverman**
*correspondent*

Cal Poly dominated the Great West Conference in 2008 and should do the same in '09.

Granted, there will be changes but the Mustangs are too powerful and experienced to cede their top spot. Cal Poly will attempt to lead the Great West with a new man at the helm. Former coach Rich Ellerson was snatched away by Army after leading the Mustangs to an 8-3 season. Former Army assistant Tim Walsh will take over the reins. While there is still talent, Cal Poly will miss Great West Offensive Player of the Year Ramses Barden, who exhausted his eligibility.

Asa Jackson » Cal Poly

Cal Poly was undefeated in three conference games last year, while UC Davis also enjoyed a winning record (2-1). The Aggies were proficient on both sides of the ball but will have to make up for the loss of defensive tackle John Faletoese, the 2008 Great West Defensive Player of the Year. Faletoese finished the season with 5.5 sacks and 7.5 tackles for loss. However, the team still has dependable wide receiver Chris Carter, who caught 69 passes in '08.

**Cal Poly** (8-3 overall, 3-0 Great West) was dealt a blow at the end of the season when Ellerson left for Army. Walsh is charged with keeping the Mustangs on track and has plenty of material with which to work.

With Barden off to the pros and quarterback Jonathan Dally also moving on after finishing first nationally in passing efficiency (171.6), the Mustangs may not be as stable on offense. But junior Tony Smith saw action in three games at quarterback last year and will most likely get the call behind center.

Still, Cal Poly will be more dependent on their defense this season. The Mustangs appear to be loaded on that side of the ball and Walsh is likely to go into attack mode.

Senior outside linebacker Carlton Gillespie is coming off a solid season in which he had 36 tackles, 12 tackles for loss and eight sacks. He has the speed to come off the edge and cause havoc but also knows how to crash through the middle and make plays. Senior strong safety David Fullerton is a good hitter with a nose for the ball. He had 32 tackles and four interceptions a year ago. The biggest playmaker on the defense may be sophomore cornerback Asa Jackson, who had 42 tackles, two interceptions and 12 passes defended in 2008.

**UC Davis** (5-7, 2-1) was a Jekyll-and-Hyde team last year as the Aggies won five of their six home games but lost all six road contests. The team should be more consistent this year in its attempt to dethrone Cal Poly. The Aggies bring back junior quarterback Greg Denham, who threw for 27 touchdowns in 2008.

Denham's top target is Carter, who recorded 768 receiving yards and five touchdowns last year. Carter can leap and also make the tough catch in traffic. Junior tight end Dean Rogers could play a key role in the offense after catching 13 passes for 178 yards in 2008. While Rogers didn't catch a touchdown pass, he did rush for three, showing his versatility.

The offensive line is anchored by senior center Tommy Hernandez, who joined Carter and Rogers on the All-Great West team in '08.

**North Dakota** (6-4, 1-2) beat archrival South Dakota to earn its only conference win last season. The Fighting Sioux will be solid on offense this season thanks to the rushing of Josh Murray. The junior running back ran for a league-high 1,146 yards with 12 touchdowns last year and is a versatile player who can go inside or outside. Senior linebacker Andrew Miller is the best UND defenders after recording 36 tackles last season. Keep an eye on junior defensive lineman Ty Boyle, who had 21 tackles and seven quarterback hurries a year ago.

**South Dakota** (6-5, 1-2) put a winning season on the board in its first year of Division I competition. The Coyotes finished with a 6-5 record and beat Southern Utah for their only conference win. Ed Meierkort may be one of the most underrated coaches in college football, as he has led South Dakota through five straight winning seasons, establishing the Coyotes as a competitive team.

Senior quarterback Noah Shepard returns after finishing fourth in the conference in total offense with 240.5 yards per game. Shepard had 13 rushing touchdowns last year. Sophomore running back Chris Ganious may be a big-play man for South Dakota in 2009 after rushing for 755 yards a year ago. He averaged an eye-catching 6.6 yards per carry and is one of the fastest players in the conference.

**Southern Utah** (4-7, 1-3) was competitive most of the season despite a losing record. One of its wins came over traditional powerhouse Youngstown State, and second-year coach Ed Lamb has confidence going into 2009 since his team was four games better in '08 than it was the previous year.

Junior wide receiver Tysson Poots may be the league's top playmaker. He had 83 receptions last year for 1,236 yards and 14 touchdowns, and is an explosive performer who can find the end zone.

Senior linebacker Robert Takeno, who led the Thunderbirds in tackles with 94 last year, paces the defense.

COURTESY MATT BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY

# IVY LEAGUE

## Penn defense aims to make Crimson blush

By Steve Silverman
*correspondent*

Traditionally, Harvard and Yale battle for Ivy League honors each year. The two storied rivals close every season with the classic matchup.

But the 2008 title race featured Harvard and Brown, and the '09 competition should showcase Harvard and Penn. What happened to the Bulldogs? They should be good this year but might be a few games shy of title contender status.

Last year, Brown had the league's most versatile offensive attack as quarterback Michael Dougherty threw 19 touchdown passes while Bobby Sewall and Buddy Farnham dominated Ivy League secondaries with their speed and agility. Running back Dereck Knight gave the Bears a solid ground game as they went 6-1 in conference play to tie the Crimson for the Ivy League title.

Harvard's only loss was a narrow defeat to Brown (24-22), but the team did not let that impact its psyche. Coach Tim Murphy has built a resilient program that won nine games last year. Quarterback Chris Pizzotti threw 17 TD passes and was named the Ivy League Player of the Year.

Both Dougherty and Pizzotti have finished their college careers. While the Bears have some talent left, it would be a stretch to see them compete for the title again. Harvard, however, should once again contend if it can hold off a powerful Penn defense.

Same story, different year for **Harvard** (9-1 overall, 6-1 Ivy). The Crimson should continue their tradition of winning in the Ivy League. While they will need a replacement for Pizzotti, the Crimson have a talented running back in Gino Gordon, who gained 578 yards and had five rushing TDs with help from the best offensive line in the conference.

The keys to the offensive line are James Williams and Alex Spisak, both of whom enter their senior seasons coming off All-Ivy honors last year. Williams was a first-team offensive lineman while Spisak made the second team.

On defense, the Crimson should get a lift from sophomore defensive back Matthew Hanson and junior cornerback Collin Zych. Kicker Patrick Long gives Harvard a threat when the offense bogs down.

**Penn** (6-4, 5-2) coach Al Bagnoli should have his Quakers in an excellent position to challenge for the Ivy crown. While the Quakers can take advantage of errors with their offense, they are dependent on the defense's ability to take away the ball.

Defensive back Chris Wynn is a ballhawk with a chance to be Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year after making the All-Ivy first team last season. Wynn, who had five interceptions and nine passes defended in 2008, is an acrobatic playmaker.

On offense, Michael DiMaggio returns as a talented between-the-tackles running back. Seniors Brendan McNally and Kyle Olson should battle for the starting QB job. Kicker Andrew Samson was a first-team All-Ivy performer after making 16 of 19 field-goal attempts last year.

**TOP PLAYERS**

**Offense** Jordan Culbreath, *RB, Princeton*
**Defense** Chris Wynn, *CB, Penn*
**Newcomer** Joe Holder, *WR, Penn*

THE IVY LEAGUE

New **Yale** (6-4, 4-3) coach Tom Williams should lead the Bulldogs to another solid season. He will be able to depend on returning QB Brook Hart, who may be the top returning signal-caller in the league. He completed 87 of 140 passes for 919 yards with seven TDs last season. Hart's weapons include senior tight end John Sheffield and junior wideout Jordan Forney. Defensively, senior tackle Tom McCarthy (29 tackles and eight for loss last year) is difficult to block.

Though **Brown** (7-3, 6-1) is not coming back to an empty cupboard, replacing Dougherty won't be easy. Farnham and Sewall both made the All-Ivy first team and so did tackle Paul Jasinowski, who returns to anchor the offensive line.

The defense has a chance to dominate thanks to the return of tackle David Howard. He had 6.5 sacks last year and made the All-Ivy team. Also back are end James Develin and safety Chris Perkins, both of whom won second-team Ivy honors last year.

The **Princeton** (4-6, 3-4) Tigers were one of the most inconsistent teams in the league last year. But they should have an interesting offense led by running back Jordan Culbreath, who returns after rushing for 1,206 yards and scoring 10 TDs in 2008. Junior linebacker Steven Cody leads the defense after recording 85 tackles and two sacks last year.

**Columbia** (2-8, 2-5) struggled in 2008 but coach Norries Wilson's team could surprise this year. Junior quarterback M.A. Olawale returns after rushing for 392 yards and passing for four TDs. Senior receiver Austin Knowlin should be a dual threat for the Lions. He had four TD receptions and is a big-time weapon on special teams after recording 646 combined return yards with two scores last season.

**Cornell** (4-6, 2-5) started the 2008 season with a 3-0 record before falling apart and winning only one more game. The Big Red will depend on senior running back Randy Barbour and senior wide receiver Bryan Walters to turn around the offense.

Junior linebacker Chris Costello showed he is a force after recording 90 tackles last year, including nine behind the line of scrimmage.

**Dartmouth** (0-10, 0-7) and coach Buddy Teevens had a run of bad luck last year. However, the team returns some decent skill-position players, including senior QB Alex Jenny (1,309 passsing yards, 5 TDs) and freshman signal-caller Conner Kempe (655, 2).

Keep an eye on sophomore cornerback Shawn Abuhoff, who had 43 tackles, five passes defended and three interceptions last year.

**PREDICTIONS**

1. Harvard
2. Penn
3. Yale
4. Brown
5. Princeton
6. Columbia
7. Cornell
8. Dartmouth

**GAME TO WATCH**

**11/14/09**
Penn @ Harvard
In recent years, Yale and Brown battled Harvard for Ivy League honors. Now its Penn's turn.

FCS

# MEAC

## PREDICTIONS

1. South Carolina State
2. Florida A&M
3. Bethune-Cookman
4. Hampton
5. Norfolk State
6. Morgan State
7. Delaware State
8. North Carolina A&T
9. Howard

**TOP PLAYERS**

**Offense** Curtis Pulley, *QB, Florida A&M*

**Defense** Terrell Whitehead, *FS, Norfolk State*

**Newcomer** Chris Bell, *WR, Norfolk State*

**GAME TO WATCH**

**10/17/09**
Florida A&M @ South Carolina State

This game will feature a showdown between the S.C. State duo of QB Malcolm Long and running back Will Ford, and FAMU QB Curtis Pulley and running back Phillip Sylvester.

## Rattlers looking to sneak up and bite MEAC king

**By Lut Williams**
*Black College Sports Page*

In 2008, Buddy Pough's South Carolina State Bulldogs blasted their way to be the top of the MEAC with an undefeated league mark to take the school's first conference title in 14 years.

The Bulldogs' only regular-season blemishes came from UCF and Clemson, both Football Bowl Subdivision schools. And the team proved its strength with a competitive first-round loss against three-time defending Football Championship Subdivision champion Appalachian State in the playoffs.

Bunched behind S.C. State were Florida A&M, Bethune-Cookman, Hampton and Delaware State, all of which tied for second (5-3) in the league standings. Morgan State and Norfolk State were just behind that group. But any of the six, particularly Florida A&M, are capable of dethroning the Bulldogs this year.

The league's best offense (382.5 yards per game) and defense (17.0 points per game) carried **South Carolina State** (10-3 overall, 8-0 MEAC) to last year's title. And despite the loss of seven All-MEAC selections, the Bulldogs return a number of players who fueled their title run. Running back William Ford, the reigning MEAC Offensive Player of the Year (1,499 yards, 13 TDs), is back for his senior season, as is backfield mate Travil Jamison (586 rushing yards, 16 TDs).

All-MEAC selections Markee Hamlin (safety) and Marshall McFadden (linebacker) spearhead the defense.

**Florida A&M** (9-3, 5-3) was thrust into the limelight in '08 under the leadership of coach Joe Taylor and the dazzling play of quarterback Curtis Pulley (1,382 passing yards, 17 TDs), both of whom are back and ready to take aim at a conference title.

Special-teams ace LeRoy Vann—who brought back three kickoffs and three punts for touchdowns in 2008—heads a list of all-star returnees that also includes running back Philip Sylvester, wideout Kevin Elliott, defensive lineman Cameron Houston and corner Curtis Holcomb.

Alvin Wyatt showed his coaching savvy last season, leading a **Bethune-Cookman** (8-3, 5-3) team racked with injuries into the thick of the conference title race. To complement dependable running back Brian Sumlar (759 yards, 10 TDs) and wideout Phillip Kirkland (25 catches, 2 TDs), Wyatt will choose from seven quarterback prospects, including 2008 spot starter Maurice Francois.

Lineman Dexter Jackson and twin cornerbacks Antonio and Antwane Cox will lead a defense that ranked second in the MEAC in scoring (19.1 ppg) last year.

After 18 years as a defensive assistant, Donovan Rose takes over a **Hampton** (6-5, 5-3) team full of offensive weapons. Rose inherits quarterback Herbert Bynes, the 2008 MEAC leader in passing (247.5 ypg). Running backs LaMarcus Coker and Dennis Mathis will be pushed by newcomer Steven Robinson, a juco All-American.

End Michael Swett, tackle Kendrick Ellis and safety Jonathan Wade will look to shore up a defense that gave up a gaudy 332.7 yards per game last season.

**Norfolk State** (5-7, 3-5) boasts some of the top skill-position players in the conference in running backs DeAngelo Branche (1,055 rushing yards, 10 TDs) and Takeem Hedgeman. Penn State transfer Chris Bell will join a receiving corps that includes Jeremy Wicker and P.J. Hayden. Though lack of depth on defense is a concern, the Spartans feature the league's premier safety, Terrell Whitehead (83 tackles, 4 INTs).

**Morgan State's** (6-6, 4-4) Devan James (1,337 rushing yards, 8 TDs) teams with Keith Lee to give the Bears two rushing options. Quarterback Carlton Jackson returns from a late-season injury in 2008 and will likely be challenged by freshman Delonte Williams.

First-team All-MEAC defenders Darren McKhan (cornerback) and Justin Lawrence (tackle) and linebackers George Howard and Troy Leftwich will be key to a solid defense in 2009.

**Delaware State** (5-6, 5-3) needs to rebuild after losing quarterback Vashon Winton, who will be succeeded by either Anthony Glaud or Nick Elko. Cincinnati transfer Tahree McQueen and Jaashawn Jones are options at running back, and Larrone Moore will likely become the No. 1 wideout.

Inside linebacker Josh Pope anchors a defense that lost six starters, including three on the line. The secondary, which returns three players, will be in good hands with strong safety Avery Grant (68 tackles).

**North Carolina A&T** (3-9, 1-7) fans hope new coach Alonzo Lee brings his magic back to Aggieland. In stints as defensive coordinator at Howard, Florida A&M, Hampton and A&T, Lee led the teams to championship seasons. Lee should bring discipline to an A&T program that's had just six wins in the last three seasons. He'll build around returning quarterback Carlton Fears on offense and linebacker Andre Thornton on defense.

Coach Carey Bailey was hit with an in-house compliance debacle at **Howard** (1-10, 0-8) last year that cost him nearly 20 players. With that problem fixed, the Bison are looking to improve. Floyd Haigler returns at quarterback and will throw to a healthy Willie Carter, who suffered a broken ankle in '08. The offensive line will try to open holes for running backs Ramon McElrathbey and Terrence Leffall.

Safety Arando Jamison leads the defense.

# MISSOURI VALLEY

## Panthers, Salukis still teams to beat in 'new' conference

**By Randy Reinhardt**
*Bloomington (Ill.) Pantagraph*

The Missouri Valley Football Conference embraced significant change in 2008. Along with the branding switch away from the Gateway Football Conference, membership also expanded to nine with the additions of South Dakota State and North Dakota State.

Still, not all was new. Perennial powerhouses Northern Iowa and Southern Illinois stood firm in the Valley penthouse, tying for the conference championship at 7-1.

Since hard-chargers Herb Donaldson of Western Illinois and North Dakota State's Tyler Roehl and speedy dynamos Corey Lewis of Northern Iowa and Southern Illinois' Larry Warner have moved on, there now is room at the top for a new group of elite running backs.

The conference's top returning rusher is South Dakota State's Kyle Minett. Illinois State's Geno Blow, Western Illinois' Dre Gibbs, Missouri State's Kingjack Washington and Derrick Law of Northern Iowa could all ascend into the league's upper echelon of tailbacks.

**Northern Iowa** (12-3 overall, 7-1 Missouri Valley) dropped a crushing 21-20 decision to eventual FCS champion Richmond in the national semifinals, and the team is primed for postseason redemption.

Quarterback Pat Grace is among nine returning offensive starters. Grace's versatility (2,041 yards passing, 618 rushing) makes the Panthers a chore to defend.

Last season's MVC Defensive Player of the Year, James Ruffin, returns as a disruptive force at end. Linebackers Josh Mahoney and Jamar Thompson both topped 100 tackles last year.

A stout 2008 **Southern Illinois** (9-3, 7-1) defense may only get better this fall. The Salukis return 10 starters from a unit that ranked second in the conference for scoring defense (17.8 points per game). Southern will be led by first-team all-conference players in linebacker Brandin Jordan and cornerback Korey Lindsey.

On offense, seven starters are back, including quarterback Chris Dieker, who should build on an encouraging first year at the helm of coach Dale Lennon's team.

**Western Illinois** (6-4, 4-4) appeared inspired by coach Don Patterson's bout with tonsil cancer. The team started out 5-2, as Patterson had to miss two months of the season to undergo treatment. But the Leathernecks stumbled down the stretch by winning just one of their final four contests to torpedo any playoff aspirations.

Patterson is cancer-free and back on the sidelines, but running back Donaldson is not. Donaldson rushed for 4,746 yards and 50 touchdowns during his career. The Leathernecks will turn to Gibbs, who rushed for 573 yards and earned All-MVC and third-team All-America honors at fullback last year.

The departure of quarterback Ryan Berry leaves a void at **South Dakota State** (7-5, 6-2). Ryan Crawford, likely Berry's replacement, completed 14 of 20 passes in relief duty as part of a potent Jackrabbits' offense that topped the conference at 35.6 points per game.

South Dakota State's defense boasts first-team All-Valley lineman Danny Batten and proven commodities in safety Conrad Kjerstad, cornerback Cole Brodie and linebackers Jimmy Rogers, Chris Johnson and Derek Domino.

**North Dakota State** (6-5, 4-4) entered the conference last year riding the momentum of back-to-back 10-1 seasons. So when the Bison barely kept their heads above .500 in 2008, folks were disappointed in Fargo.

The offense received a major boost when game-breaking wide receiver/kick returner Shamen Washington was granted an injury waiver by the NCAA to play one more season. Quarterback Nick Mertens tossed 16 TDs but also had 15 interceptions in an up-and-down '08.

Look for a bounce-back season from **Youngstown State** (4-8, 3-5). Last year's record was the program's worst since 1995, as a rash of injuries struck the Penguins.

A defense that returns nine starters will be led by lineman Crispin Fernandez, linebacker Roshon Simons, free safety Brandian Ross and cornerback Lenny Wicks.

Offensive-line depth is a concern, but quarterback Brandon Summers was a success in his first season as a starter (1,540 passing yards and 18 TDs).

Coach Terry Allen and quarterback Cody Kirby have revived the **Missouri State** (4-7, 3-5) offense, but the Bears' defense lags.

Kirby passed for 2,014 yards last fall and enters his third season as starter in the Missouri State spread attack. His weapons include well-decorated tight end Clay Harbor (85 receptions over the past two seasons) and the elusive Washington.

New coach Brock Spack has a lot of new ideas for **Illinois State** (3-8, 2-6), one of which is to install the spread offense utilized at his former school, Purdue.

Who will call signals in the new system remains to be seen. The only quarterback with game experience is sophomore Drew Kiel, who saw limited time as a backup last season.

Strong safety Kelvyn Hemphill is a defensive stalwart, but changes are expected for a unit that coughed up more than 30 points per game for a second straight year.

**Indiana State** (0-12, 0-8) coach Trent Miles enters his second year of massive rebuilding. Junior Darrius Gates rushed for 566 yards as one of 18 Sycamores to carry the football in 2008.

Safeties Donye McCleskey and Alex Sewall and lineman Rod Hardy are among the team's top defenders.

### TOP PLAYERS

**Offense** Kyle Minett, *RB, South Dakota State*
**Defense** James Ruffin, *DE, Northern Iowa*
**Newcomer** Justin Rideau, *WR, Western Illinois*

### PREDICTIONS

1. Northern Iowa
2. Southern Illinois
3. Western Illinois
4. South Dakota State
5. North Dakota State
6. Youngstown State
7. Missouri State
8. Illinois State
9. Indiana State

### GAME TO WATCH

**10/17/09**
**Southern Illinois at Northern Iowa**

Southern Illinois handed Northern Iowa its lone 2008 conference defeat by a field goal. The Panthers will try to return the favor at the UNI Dome in a contest that is likely to have league championship implications once again.

FCS

# NORTHEAST

## PREDICTIONS

1 Albany
2 Monmouth
3 Sacred Heart
4 Central Connecticut St.
5 Robert Morris
6 Wagner
7 Duquesne
8 St. Francis (Pa.)

**TOP PLAYERS**

**Offense** David McCarty, *RB, Albany*
**Defense** Ray Saunders, *DE, Central Connecticut State*
**Newcomer** Marcel Archer, *RB, Sacred Heart*

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE NEC

**GAME TO WATCH**

**10/24/09**
Albany at Monmouth

The meeting that decided the 2008 title will likely do the same in '09. Monmouth led 14-0 at halftime in last year's match, but Albany rallied for a 35-17 win. This year, however, Monmouth has the home field.

## Strong ground game will help Danes weather NEC storm

**By Steve Amedio**
*Schenectady (N.Y.) Gazette*

Teams in the Northeast Conference face harsh weather conditions every year. By mid-fall in the Northeast, blustery winter snow and rain come as often as sunny days. This means handing off the ball is a safer recourse than passing it in unpredictable elements.

It also means the race for the conference title will go to the swift.

But that doesn't narrow the field, as 2009 will feature the best rushing talent the NEC has had in years.

The conference's best two running backs, Albany's David McCarty and Monmouth's David Sinisi, return, so an upheaval at the top of the NEC is unlikely.

Sinisi and McCarty aren't the only standout NEC runners. Central Connecticut State has James Mallory, who joined Sinisi and McCarty as 1,500-plus-yard rushers in 2008. Robert Morris features Myles Russ, fourth on the NEC rushing list a year ago. Duquesne returns Cleo Williams, No. 6 among league rushers in 2008. And Sacred Heart brings in Marcel Archer, a transfer from Central Michigan.

**Albany** (9-3 overall, 7-0 NEC) has dominated the NEC the past two years, with only one conference loss to Monmouth in 2006 as proof. Expect the same this season. McCarty had 1,581 rushing yards in the 2008 regular season and tacked on another 271 in a 28-0 victory over Jacksonville in the Gridiron Classic. Also back are quarterback Vinny Esposito (1,793 passing yards, 13 TDs) and wide receiver Tim Bush (58 catches, 697 yards).

Defensively, the Danes have the best linebackers in the league with first-team All-NEC returnee Justin Brancaccio and Dave Nicomini, a 2007 All-NEC selection who missed last season with an injury.

A year ago, **Monmouth** (7-4, 6-1) had a 14-0 halftime lead at Albany before suffering a 35-17 setback. Sinisi (1,674 rushing yards, 22 TDs) was the league's 2008 MVP, and he'll benefit from the return of first-team All-NEC lineman Shawn Wright. Still, Monmouth lost its quarterback, which is a question coach Kevin Callahan will have to answer as senior Andrew Mandeville is the only contender with experience.

Defensively, eight starters return, including safety Jose Gumbs, the 2008 NEC Defensive Rookie of the Year.

Though **Sacred Heart** (8-3, 4-3) has lost its best runner from a year ago (Evin Jones), it appears to have a replacement in Archer, a junior transfer who had seven touchdowns as a freshman at Central Michigan, but only saw limited action last year as a sophomore. Couple Archer with junior quarterback Dale Fink, who led the NEC last season in completions (215), and the Pioneers' backfield is in good hands. The offense will also get a boost from wide receiver Steve Tedesco (NEC-leading 77 catches) and lineman Justin Smith.

The Pioneers have strength on the defensive line with Bill O'Brien anchoring. However, there's only one returning starter in the secondary.

**Central Connecticut State** (7-4, 4-3) has been above .500 for five straight seasons and could make it six behind Mallory (1,520 rushing yards). The Blue Devils have a workable platoon at quarterback with passer Hunter Wanket (70-of-121 for 833 yards) and Aubrey Norris (1,370 career rushing yards).

The team's biggest loss came on the defensive line with the graduation of two players, but reinforcements come from a pair of Iona transfers in Gene Johnson and Rich Royster. They'll join end Ray Saunders, who led the NEC in sacks (7.0) last season.

**Robert Morris** (5-6, 4-3) was once the league's dominant team, winning or sharing the NEC title from 1996-2000. How quickly the Colonials can develop a quarterback—likely Camdin Crouse, who completed just five of six attempts last season—will determine if they can contend this season. The rest of the offense is set with Russ (1,255 rushing yards) leading the way. Also, the NEC's Offensive Rookie of the Year, wide receiver James O'Quinn (27 catches, 622 yards), returns.

Lineman Alex DiMichele (116 tackles), end Mark Szmanski and safety Michael Landers are the top returnees on defense.

**Wagner** (3-8, 1-6) will be chasing its first .500 conference record since 2002. Returning at quarterback is Adam Farnsworth, who might be pushed by 22-year-old freshman Nick Doscher. Doscher enters college after four years as a catcher in the Kansas City Royals' organization.

However, the Seahawks need to find replacements for four players on defense. But the entire defensive backfield returns, led by second-team All-NEC player Stefen Gage.

Last year's young **Duquesne** (3-7, 2-5) team struggled in its inaugural season in the NEC. But there's potential for improvement this year behind prolific quarterback Connor Dixon (211 passing yards per game) and running back Cleo Williams (849 rushing yards). Also back on offense is tight end Sean Bunevich, a second-team All-NEC pick last season.

On defense, the Dukes will be led by junior linebacker Nathan Totino, a first-team All-NEC member a year ago.

**Saint Francis** (0-11, 0-7) has never had a winning season in the NEC, and that isn't likely to change this year, as the Red Flash are missing a feature running back. But four All-NEC honorees return in linebacker Scott Lewis, offensive lineman Cody Kekipi, linebacker Matt Parker and wide receiver Omar Winston.

# OHIO VALLEY

## Despite recent success, Eastern Kentucky still looking up at JSU, Tennessee-Martin

**By Michael Grant**
*Louisville Courier-Journal*

Has Eastern Kentucky returned as the dominant force in the Ohio Valley Conference?

This season could provide an answer. Last year the Colonels shrugged off a coaching change to repeat as champions. This fall they'll have to do it with a new quarterback, which is why Eastern Kentucky likely won't be favored. Jacksonville State and Tennessee-Martin figure to finish ahead of the Colonels.

Jacksonville State enjoyed success when it joined the league in 2003. The Gamecocks won titles in their first two OVC seasons and appear ready to grab another with quarterback Ryan Perrilloux. Tennessee-Martin, once one of the worst FCS programs in the country, was in position last year to capture its second championship in two years but fell to Eastern Kentucky in the season finale.

Still, Eastern Kentucky wasn't predicted to win the past two league titles, so don't be surprised if the Colonels end up claiming their 21st OVC crown.

In his first year at **Jacksonville State** (8-3 overall, 6-2 OVC), Perrilloux didn't dominate the OVC but fared well. The heralded LSU transfer helped the Gamecocks tie for second place and finish 22nd in the final FCS coaches poll. He was second in the conference in passing yards (210.7 per game) but only fourth in efficiency (140.9). Perrilloux is one of four All-OVC Gamecocks returning. As a senior, he should contend for league MVP honors.

The defense should be in good hands with All-American Carnell Clark. The safety was second on the team in tackles (66).

The most important returnee for **Tennessee-Martin** (8-4, 6-2) is coach Jason Simpson, who was courted by Chattanooga. Simpson has quickly built on the successful foundation laid by predecessor Matt Griffin. In three seasons, Simpson has gone 21-14, won the OVC in his first season and came within one victory of another title last year. The pitch-and-catch All-OVC combination of quarterback Cade Thompson and wide receiver Mike Hicks looks to be lethal on the field this fall. Thompson led the OVC in passing yards (223.3) and touchdown passes (24) last year, while Hicks was second in receiving yards (74.5) and tops in TD receptions (12).

**Eastern Kentucky** (8-4, 7-1) coach Dean Head's rookie season was a success marking the first time the Colonels have won back-to-back conference championships since 1993 and '94. They will now try to become the first team to pull off an OVC three-peat since EKU turned the trick in 1986-88. The biggest question mark is who will replace quarterback Allan Holland, the director of those two championship seasons. With Holland gone, Cody Watts and Trevor Hoskins will battle for the job. Head would prefer to have Watts at wide receiver, where he caught 23 passes for 386 yards and five scores as a sophomore last year.

**Murray State** (5-7, 4-4) had its first sign of progress under fourth-year coach Matt Griffin. After winning only once in each of Griffin's first three seasons, the Racers enjoyed their best record since 2004. Griffin began at Tennessee-Martin, which shared the OVC title in 2006. Using that as a barometer, Murray State should contend this season. Three All-OVC players are back in defensive lineman Austen Lane, receiver Derrick Townsel and tight end DeAngelo Nelson. As a junior, Lane led the league in sacks (12) last year, while his 22 tackles for a loss were tied for most in the FCS.

**Eastern Illinois** (5-7, 3-5) had an atypical season in 2008, finishing with a losing OVC record for the first time since 2003. While the Panthers say goodbye to Travorus Bess, they gain Mon Williams, a Florida transfer. He will have two years of eligibility remaining. Eastern Illinois must improve an offense that ranked sixth in the league (303.9 ypg) and second to last in passing (160.9) in 2008.

**Tennessee State** (8-4, 5-3) has a huge hole to fill with the departure of 2008 OVC MVP Javarris Williams, who rushed for 4,329 career yards, fifth best in school history. However, Williams missed the final two games of last season, which allowed the Tigers to audition Dante' Thomas and Preston Brown. The Tigers also must replace QB Antonio Heffner. Defensive tackle Donte'e Nicholls, a South Carolina transfer, arrives to beef up the line.

After a surprising 5-3 record in its return to the OVC in 2007, **Austin Peay** (2-9, 2-6) came back to earth in '08. But the Governors should improve with nine starters returning on defense and eight on offense. Leading tackler Daniel Becker (102 total stops), a second-team All-OVC choice, will be back. Also, Austin Peay should win the field-position battle with standout return man Terrence Holt (1,285 return yards).

The pressure might be on coach Tony Samuel to have a breakthrough season at **Southeast Missouri State** (4-8, 2-6). The Redhawks need to find a running game, as they were last in the league last year (97.5 ypg). The addition of Arkansas transfer Dominic Maldonado to the offensive line could help. The team does return receiver Walter Peoples, who led the OVC in receiving yards while adding 65 receptions and six TDs.

Things could be looking up for **Tennessee Tech** (3-9, 1-7), which lost only seven seniors. Four FBS transfers should help, including former UAB defensive end/linebacker Kelvin Quarles.

### PREDICTIONS

1. Jacksonville State
2. Tennessee-Martin
3. Eastern Kentucky
4. Murray State
5. Eastern Illinois
6. Tennessee State
7. Austin Peay
8. Southeast Missouri State
9. Tennessee Tech

### GAME TO WATCH

**11/21/09**
Eastern Kentucky
@ Jacksonville State

This season finale figures to play a role in deciding the OVC championship. It should also be a redemption game for Ryan Perrilloux, who threw five interceptions in last year's 38-35 loss at Eastern Kentucky.

### TOP PLAYERS

**Offense** Ryan Perrilloux, *QB, Jacksonville State*
**Defense** Austen Lane, *DL, Murray State*
**Newcomer** Mon Williams, *RB, Eastern Illinois*

FCS

# PATRIOT LEAGUE

### PREDICTIONS

1. Colgate
2. Holy Cross
3. Lafayette
4. Lehigh
5. Fordham
6. Bucknell
7. Georgetown

### TOP PLAYERS

**Offense** Dominic Randolph, *QB, Holy Cross*

**Defense** Mark Leggiero, *LB, Lafayette*

**Newcomer** Zach Barket, *RB, Lehigh*

### GAME TO WATCH

**10/24/09**
Colgate at Holy Cross

Colgate has won seven of its last eight meetings with Holy Cross, including a one-point title-clinching victory last November. Holy Cross's 27-20 win in Worcester, Mass., in 2007 ended a string of six consecutive wins by Colgate.

## Crusaders looking for revenge on Raiders in Patriot games

**By Ed Laubach**
*correspondent*

Holy Cross did a turnabout last December when the Patriot League granted the team's prolific quarterback, Dominic Randolph, a medical redshirt and fifth year of eligibility. Now the Crusaders have a chance to win their first championship since 1991.

But will the Crusaders' defense be stout enough to throttle another punishing ground attack from defending champion Colgate?

Still fresh in the mind of coach Tom Gilmore is last November's 28-27 Colgate victory that sent the Raiders to the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs for the eighth time in school history.

"We have unfinished business," Gilmore says. "That was a real bitter way to end the year. We've been so close the last three years. We're just a little short of being an awfully good football team. Having Dom back enhances our chances."

Holy Cross and Colgate may not be the only title contenders in 2009. Lehigh, Lafayette, Bucknell and Fordham are all capable of making a championship run.

Severe ankle injuries to quarterback Alex Relph and running back Jordan Scott opened the doors for two athletes at **Colgate** (9-3 overall, 5-0 Patriot) last season. Quarterback Greg Sullivan (1,695 passing yards, 898 rushing yards) and running back Nate Eachus (932 rushing yards) stepped up behind an experienced line and led the Raiders to their sixth Patriot League championship. The duo is back and will work behind a line that returns only guard Zach Posey. The league's top wideout, Pat Simonds (65 catches, 1,136 yards, 9 TDs), is also back.

The Raiders return eight on defense, including four all-league performers—end Austin Douglas, nose tackle Paul Mancuso, linebacker Greg Hadley and cornerback Wayne Moten, the team's MVP.

Will this be the year **Holy Cross** (7-4, 5-1) ends its streak of late-season heartbreaks? In addition to losing the title last year to Colgate, the Crusaders lost back-to-back games to Fordham and Lafayette in '07 and fell to Lehigh and Colgate in the final three weeks of '06. The Crusaders hope to buck that trend as Randolph (3,838 yards, 34 TDs) returns for a final year at quarterback. He'll throw to experienced wideouts Josh Jenkins (35 catches, 329 yards) and Nick Cole (30, 281).

Nine players return to a defense that ranked last in the conference against the pass last year. But of those nine, three are second-team All-Patriot players—linebackers Sean Lamkin and Marcus Rodriguez and corner Michael Wright.

Maurice White is finally healthy for the 2009 season at **Lafayette** (7-4, 3-3). Sidelined with injuries in '07 and '08, the running back enters his last season with a chance to produce an elusive 1,000-yard campaign. Quarterback Rob Curley is favored to open the season under center. He'll throw to a bevy of untested receivers.

First-team all-league linebacker Mark Leggiero (93 tackles) is the heart of a Leopards defense that also features tackles Ian Dell and Andrew Poulson and safety Eric McGovern.

**Lehigh** (5-6, 4-2) has been dominant over the past 11 years, claiming four league titles between 1998-2001. But this year's squad may have too many questions to contend, particularly in the receiving corps and at running back. The Mountain Hawks boast solid quarterback J.B. Clark (2,350 yards, 23 TDs), but his primary targets are gone. The running-back position could go to highly regarded incoming freshman Zach Barket.

One of the league's top defensive units should only improve with first-team All-Patriot stars B.J. Benning (6.0 sacks in '08) at nose guard and linebacker Matt Cohen (53 tackles). Second-team All-Patriot pick Jarard Cribbs (3 INTs) and John Kennedy (65 tackles) rank among the top corners in the league.

Despite returning a number of starters from its league championship team in 2007, **Fordham** (5-6, 1-5) plunged to a sixth-place finish last year. Quarterback John Skelton (2,605 passing yards), running back Xavier Martin (1,237 rushing yards), wideout Asa Lucas (36 catches, 449 yards) and linebacker James Crockett (67 tackles, 3 forced fumbles) are back to try again. Nose guard Darzell Wright and linebacker Andre Delaire (71 tackles) head a defense that has voids to fill at both tackles and safety.

Though **Bucknell** (5-6, 2-4) returns 18 starters, the team doesn't look like it can catch the league powers. Productive running back and kick-return man A.J. Kizekai, who was fifth nationally in all-purpose yards (1,840) last year, returns. So does wide receiver Shaun Pasternak (12 TDs, 1,083 yards), the Bison's 2008 MVP. There could be a battle at quarterback, as Marcello Trigg and C.J. Hopson both return.

The Bison must shore up the league's worst defense, beginning with a front line that struggled to reach the quarterback last season. Linebacker Greg Jones (88 tackles) will be the group's stabilizing force.

**Georgetown** (2-8, 0-5) has floundered since joining the league in 2001 and there's little sign of improvement, for '09. The Hoyas boast all-league safety Travis Mack and Keerome Lawrence, who splits time at quarterback and wide receiver. Running back and kick returner Charlie Houghton, the league's Rookie of the Year in 2006, needs to stay healthy.

Linebacker Nick Parrish (73 tackles) provided highlights in last year's loss to Holy Cross by returning two interceptions for touchdowns. Safety Chris Rau and end Ataefiok Etukeren are other proven defenders.

# PIONEER

## Dolphins look to jump at second straight league title

By Andy Jasner
*correspondent*

What started out shaky ended with a celebration for Jacksonville. After losing three of its first five games, Jacksonville rallied to its first Pioneer Football League Championship.

And JU looks primed for a run at a second consecutive crown in 2009.

The Dolphins have depth in every facet of the game. If quarterback Josh McGregor can recover from offseason surgery, they'll be even more dangerous under coach Kerwin Bell.

Sebastian Trujillo › San Diego

The rest of the PFL—with the exception of Marist, which is in its first year as a full member—has improved, especially San Diego and Dayton.

Both the Toreros and Flyers remained in the PFL race until the end of the 2008 season. Key returnees should make for an exciting three-team showdown.

**Jacksonville** (9-4 overall, 7-1 Pioneer) has aspirations of capturing back-to-back Pioneer Football League championships. The Dolphins return a bevy of talent from last year's team, which strung together a seven-game winning streak. McGregor set a school record for most passing yards in a season with 2,444. He's already fourth on the school's all-time passing-yardage list. If McGregor isn't ready, Erik Stepelton is able to step in.

Jacksonville's defense was stingy last year, holding six opponents to 10 points or less. If the Dolphins can put it all together, they'll have a talented team this fall.

**Dayton** (9-3, 6-2) won nine of its first 10 games and was in line for a league championship, but the Flyers lost a heartbreaking 14-13 decision to Morehead State and followed that with an 19-14 loss at Jacksonville.

Despite the late-season collapse, optimism remains high for this year's squad. Junior wide receiver/return specialist Steve Valentino returns after being named to the All-PFL first team. However, the Flyers could struggle on defense with the loss of end Scott Vossler and tackle Kalen Hemmelgarn. Still, this is a program that looks to be reloading rather than rebuilding.

**San Diego** (9-2, 6-2) has holes to fill, most notably at wide receiver with the loss of John Matthews. He led the FCS in receptions (102) and touchdowns (21) last year, and finished second in receiving yards (1,478). The Toreros will feature senior quarterback Sebastian Trujillo, who threw for 2,822 yards and 35 TDs, the third-best mark in school history. Also returning is defensive back Al-Rilwan Adeyemi, the 2008 PFL Freshman Defensive Player of the Year.

**Drake** (6-5, 4-4) was one of the more pleasant surprises a year ago. The Bulldogs extended their string of consecutive winning seasons to five with a 32-0 win over Valparaiso in the season finale. That win also allowed Drake to snap a seven-game losing streak on the road thanks to a pair of TDs by Patrick Oliver, who will be a sophomore this season. The Bulldogs must replace nine key seniors, but the combination of Oliver and senior fullback Steve Platek will be tough for any team to stop.

**Butler's** (6-5, 4-4) six wins in 2008, the most since 1997, was a surprise for fans. Sophomore defensive end Grant Hunter, who led the PFL with 14 sacks last year, will return to anchor the up-and-coming defense. Senior wide receiver Dan Bohrer is also back. He set a school record with 11 TDs and finished second in the PFL with 70 receptions and 953 receiving yards.

**Morehead State** (6-6, 4-4) jolted Dayton with a 14-13 win late last season. As usual, senior linebacker Wes McDermott will pace the Eagles. McDermott led the PFL in tackles (102) and tackles for loss (19.5) in 2008. If Morehead wants to better last year's record, McDermott will likely lead the way.

Though **Davidson** (4-7, 3-5) defeated eventual PFL champion Jacksonville, the team struggled after winning six games in 2007. As for this season, defensive lineman Will Funderburg (46 tackles, 13 tackles for loss, 2.5 sacks) is gone but senior linebacker Tyler Lemons returns. Lemons led the team last season with 91 tackles, second highest in the PFL.

For **Valparaiso** (3-8, 2-6) to stay afloat in the conference, the Crusaders must fill the void left by linebacker Ryan Koepke, who finished his career with 256 tackles. Offensively, senior running back Ross Wiemer looks to improve on last season's 824 rushing yards and 10 TDs.

Last year, **Campbell** (1-10, 0-8) kicked off its first football season since 1950. Sophomore Milton Brown led the Camels with 85 tackles and three interceptions. Campbell's lone win was a 36-27 victory over Division III Carthage College.

This season, the PFL will welcome **Marist** as its 10th member. The Red Foxes will play a full PFL slate in 2009. Last year, Marist faced both San Diego and Davidson. The Red Foxes fell to San Diego in their first game of the year, but picked up a 24-19 win at Davidson to close the season. Senior running back O'Neil Anderson will be a key factor on offense.

pioneer football league

### PREDICTIONS

1. Jacksonville
2. Dayton
3. San Diego
4. Drake
5. Butler
6. Morehead State
7. Davidson
8. Valparaiso
9. Campbell
10. Marist

### GAME TO WATCH

**10/3/09 ›**
**Davidson @ Jacksonville**

Davidson was the only team in the league to beat Jacksonville last season. If the Dolphins harbor hopes of winning a second consecutive league championship, they must seek revenge on the Wildcats.

### TOP PLAYERS

**Offense ›** Josh McGregor, *QB, Jacksonville*
**Defense ›** Wes McDermott, *LB, Morehead State*
**Newcomer ›** Jeff Quigley, *OL, San Diego*

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# SOUTHERN

**PREDICTIONS**

1. Appalachian State
2. Elon
3. Wofford
4. Georgia Southern
5. Samford
6. Furman
7. The Citadel
8. Western Carolina
9. Chattanooga

## Bulldogs showing teeth, but ASU should stay on top

**By Matt McKenzie**
*Sporting News*

In the tough Southern Conference, teams will take any win they can get. So when Samford entered the league last season, many thought it would be an easy victory, especially after the Bulldogs were picked last in the preseason poll.

But someone forgot to tell Samford it was the new league doormat, as the Bulldogs shocked everyone by finishing with a 6-5 overall mark and .500 record in conference play. And while everyone is still looking up at Appalachian State, Samford now joins the league's strong group of possible playoff contenders.

"I don't think I expected it until we got ready to play them," says ASU coach Jerry Moore of Samford's performance last year. "Once you studied them and watched them, then you realized, 'Hey, they're for real.' And they're extremely well-coached."

Samford coach Pat Sullivan said at the start of last season that he didn't know how his team's inaugural SoCon campaign would play out, except that every game would be a dogfight.

"All we knew was that our kids were practicing hard, the intangibles were there and they were listening to what the coaches were telling them," Sullivan says. "Then we started to develop confidence and I said, 'Hey, let's take it one game at a time and add it up at the end of the season and see where we are.'

"Each week, the quality of the opponent tells you how football is important in the Southern Conference. Every team gave us what we were looking for. But I was proud of our team; they played hard every week and gave us a chance."

With 15 starters back, the postseason is a possibility for Samford. But first the Bulldogs will have to do battle with the likes of Wofford, Elon, Georgia Southern and Furman, which all have talent but also significant questions entering the 2009 season. When predicting Nos. 2-6 in the SoCon, it might be easier to pull names out of a hat.

But all those teams will be chasing Appalachian State yet again. Led by dynamic Football Championship Subdivision All-America quarterback Armanti Edwards, the Mountaineers have outright won or shared the SoCon title the last four seasons.

The pieces are in place for **Appalachian State** (11-3 overall, 8-0 Southern) to capture its fifth straight conference crown. It starts and ends with Edwards, who threw for a conference-high 2,902 yards and 30 touchdowns while rushing for 941 yards and 11 touchdowns last year. Heading into his senior season, Edwards has accounted for a combined 10,783 yards and 108 scores.

**GAME TO WATCH**

**11/14/09**
**Appalachian State @ Elon**

Two of the SoCon's top offenses square off, and there's a good chance both teams will be undefeated in conference play before this penultimate game of the regular season.

The Mountaineers will hope for a healthy season from running back Devon Moore, who missed all but three games last year with an ankle injury. Devin Radford and Robert Welton are additional weapons on the ground, while wideout CoCo Hillary (735 receiving yards, 5 TDs) and All-SoCon tight end Ben Jorden (506, 6) also return.

Appalachian place five defenders on the all-conference first team last year, and four members of that group are back. Linebacker Jacque Roman led the league in tackles with 130, while D.J. Smith was right behind at 123. In the secondary, Cortez Gilbert (19) and Mark LeGree (17) finished 1-2, respectively, in passes defended. LeGree also led all FCS players with a school-record 10 interceptions in 2008.

**Elon** (8-4, 6-2) looks to be the one team that could loosen the Mountaineers' solid grip on the Southern crown, especially with nine starters back on offense. Headlining the Phoenix returnees is All-America wideout Terrell Hudgins, who has gone over the 1,000-yard mark in each of his three seasons. Hudgins will again team with quarterback Scott Riddle, last year's conference leader in passing yards per game (239.2).

The Phoenix more than doubled their rushing yards per contest from 2007, thanks to the emergence of junior Brandon Newsome, who notched a career-best 931 yards last season. Newsome is back (along with all five starting offensive linemen) and will look to help Elon improve on last year's total of just 11 rushing TDs.

Elon's defense ranked second in the Southern for both scoring (21.3 points per game) and total defense (327.5 yards per game), without having any players named first-team all-conference. Second-team honoree safety Walker White returns, along with leading tackler Brandon Wiggins at linebacker, and lineman Eric Ludwig.

**Wofford** (9-3, 7-1) enjoyed a second straight trip to the playoffs in 2008, but may be

Armanti Edwards • Appalachian State

DERICK HINGLE / ICON SMI

**TOP PLAYERS**

**Offense** Armanti Edwards, *QB, Appalachian State*

**Defense** Jacque Roman, *LB, Appalachian State*

**Newcomer** Darreion Robinson, *RB, Georgia Southern*

hard-pressed to get back to the postseason with a number of key starters gone. However, it seems that's always the case for coach Mike Ayers, who often finds ways to reload.

Ayers will be tasked with replacing tailback Dane Romero, who led the Southern in rushing touchdowns (23); quarterback Ben Widmyer (1,284 yards, 10 TDs); and wideout Andy Strickland.

After spring practice there wasn't a clear leader between sophomore Mitch Allen and junior Robby Davis at quarterback, and there's a good chance both will see significant playing time in 2009. Senior end Mitch Clark, the Southern's returning leader in sacks, will be in the running for conference Defensive Player of the Year, and the Terriers' young defense will need his leadership.

Last year was a season of coming up short for **Georgia Southern** (6-5, 4-4). In a four-game stretch, the Eagles lost by two to Elon, one to Wofford and one to Appalachian State.

The team also experienced a significant personnel loss in the offseason when quarterback Antonio Henton announced he was transferring. Henton ranked third in the SoCon in total offense with 225.5 yards per game and led the Eagles in passing last season. Sophomore Lee Chapple, who played in seven games in 2008 and threw five touchdown passes, takes over full time.

With Leander Barney now converted to wideout, the rushing chores will fall to sophomore Adam Urbano (304 yards, 7 TDs) and grayshirt freshman Darreion Robinson, who had an impressive spring.

The defense took a hard hit with the losses of Dakota Walker, who led the conference in sacks (8.5) and tackles for loss (17.5) ; Quentin Taylor, who had a SoCon best 9.8 tackles per game; and Chris Covington (14.0 tackles for loss, 6.5 sacks).

Georgia Southern's defensive strength lies in its secondary, led by returning starters Ronnie Wiggins, Carson Hill and K.R. Snipes.

**Samford** (6-5, 4-4) made a statement in its first year of Southern play with a road win over Georgia Southern and close losses against Appalachian State and Furman. Now the Bulldogs must prove they can remain competitive in the SoCon. A host of starters will help that cause, led by quarterback Dustin Taliaferro and running back Chris Evans.

Taliaferro, the 2008 SoCon Freshman of the Year, threw for 1,745 yards and 13 touchdowns, while Evans led the conference with 1,284 rushing yards and 14 scores.

Samford's strength last year, however, was its defense, which topped the Southern by allowing only 18.8 points and 318.5 yards per contest. Six starters from that unit are back, led by middle linebacker Bryce Smith (92 tackles, 5 INTs).

Once a yearly playoff entrant, **Furman** (7-5, 4-4) has now sat out the FCS postseason for two straight seasons. It appears to be the team hurt most by the increased talent among Southern Conference programs. Coach Bobby Lamb's squad sputtered to a 1-3 mark in its final four games, which included just 20 combined points during the last two contests.

The Paladins have the key offensive components to return to the playoffs, including senior quarterback Jordan Sorrells, who ranked third in the conference with 2,537 passing yards. Keeping defenses honest will be tailback Mike Brown, a second-team All-SoCon pick who rushed for 823 yards last year. Look for Furman to utilize sophomore fullback Tersoo Uhaa (8 rushing TDs) in the red zone.

Defense is where the Paladins need players to step up, especially with the departure of All-SoCon stars Thomas Twitty and William Middleton in the secondary. Rover Max Lerner is back after picking off four passes and earning all-conference honors in 2008.

After its first winning season in the last 10 years, **The Citadel** (4-8, 2-6) failed to capitalize on that success in 2008, losing seven of its final eight games. Most of the problems came on the defensive side of the ball. The Bulldogs were just one of two Southern teams to allow 30 or more points a contest in 2008.

The Bulldogs plan to switch to a 4-3 defense in order to improve, and players like linebacker Jordon Gilmore (89 tackles) and end Dewitt Jones (team-leading 4.0 sacks) will be counted on to lead the new scheme.

Quarterback Bart Blanchard made significant strides in his sophomore season, throwing for 2,436 yards and 19 touchdowns. Helping on offense is the return of All-America wideout Andre Roberts, who led the Southern and was fourth overall among FCS players with 1,334 receiving yards last year. Roberts is also a deadly weapon on special teams, scoring three touchdowns on punt returns in 2008.

Last season's leading rusher, Asheton Jordan, has left the school, which likely leaves the job to sophomore Terrell Dallas, who was held out of spring practice with a knee injury.

It was a learning curve for Dennis Wagner in his first season as coach at **Western Carolina** (3-9, 1-7), which included his Catamounts blowing a 31-3 fourth-quarter lead to Georgia Southern. However, with nine starters back on each side of the ball, this year's squad should be better.

After decent freshman campaigns, quarterback Zack Jaynes (1,163 passing yards, 10 TDs) and running back Quan Warley (672 rushing yards) are both back. Junior Marquel Pittman also returns after leading the team with 571 receiving yards last year.

Senior linebacker Adrian McLeod was one of only four SoCon players to total 100 or more tackles last year. The Catamounts' secondary, featuring safeties Mitchell Bell and Chris Collins, again looks to be a strength after ranking No. 1 in the conference for pass defense in 2008.

A winless conference slate and just one overall victory signaled the end for Rodney Allison at **Chattanooga** (1-11, 0-8) after a six-year tenure. Enter Russ Huesman, formerly the defensive coordinator at 2008 FCS champion Richmond.

The Mocs are coming off a season in which they ranked last in the Southern in scoring offense (12.8 ppg), total offense (224.9 ypg), scoring defense (37.9 ppg) and total defense (442.5 ypg). Huesman will have a team that returns 19 starters, including senior quarterback Jare Gault, who hopes to improve on just seven touchdown passes in 2008.

After suffering a broken hand and leg last year, running back Erroll Wynn will redshirt the 2009 campaign, opening the door for Bryan Fitzgerald to lead the way on the ground. Fitzgerald was a preseason all-conference pick last year but suffered a season-ending knee injury shortly before Chattanooga's first game.

Linebackers Joseph Thornton and Tony Swafford, the team's top two tacklers last season, return to lead the defense.

# SOUTHLAND

### PREDICTIONS

1. Central Arkansas
2. McNeese State
3. Texas State
4. Northwestern State
5. Nicholls State
6. Southeastern Louisiana
7. Stephen F. Austin
8. Sam Houston State

**TOP PLAYERS**

**Offense** Todd Pendland, *RB, McNeese State*
**Defense** Larry Hart, *DE, Central Arkansas*
**Newcomer** Nathan Dick, *QB, Central Arkansas*

**GAME TO WATCH**

**11/21/09**
Central Arkansas @ McNeese State

This game will likely decide the Southland championship, with the loser hoping for an at-large FCS playoff bid.

## Usual suspects will battle for Southland dominance

**By Scott Rabalais**
*correspondent*

If Claude Rains were handicapping the 2009 Southland Conference race, he'd probably trot out his most famous line from "Casablanca."

"Round up the usual suspects."

Of course, the usual suspects have a new player these days with the addition of Central Arkansas, which finished with the SLC's best record in 2008 despite being ineligible for the championship. Overall, the term refers to the top four teams from last year's standings: Central Arkansas, McNeese State, Texas State (the reigning SLC champion) and Northwestern State. Any of those four have the talent, coaching and tradition to come out on top in the '09 conference race.

However, it won't be impossible for one of the bottom four teams—Nicholls State, Southeastern Louisiana, Stephen F. Austin or Sam Houston State—to break into the upper division. But it will take luck, improbable fate and a lot of upsets.

The Southland Conference will soon be expanding by two members. Lamar joins in 2010 and compete for the SLC championship in 2011. Texas-San Antonio, which is being guided by former Miami (Fla.) coach Larry Coker, will take to the field in 2011 and be eligible for the league standings in 2012.

Only three years removed from their transition from Division II to Division I, **Central Arkansas** (10-2 overall, 6-1 Southland) has made itself at home atop the Southland. OK, the Bears weren't eligible for the 2008 SLC title, but they still had the conference's best record.

Eighteen starters return from that squad, with nine back on defense, led by All-America end Larry Hart (43 tackles, 21 for loss, 12 sacks).

The offense lost All-America quarterback Nathan Brown and will be led by either senior Robbie Park or Arkansas transfer Nathan Dick.

If there's a Southland program for which the phrase "They don't rebuild, they reload" is true, it's **McNeese State** (7-4, 4-3). The Cowboys return only nine starters (6 offense, 3 defense) after graduating a big senior class, but they return key pieces in the right places.

The focal points are quarterback Derrick Fourroux (2,205 yards, 18 TDs) and tailback Todd Pendland (1,431 rushing yards, 12). End Terrance Freeman (team-best 5.5 sacks) and safety Darrell Jenkins (40 tackles) spearhead the defense.

**Texas State** (8-5, 5-2), which won the 2008 SLC crown, returns a talented crop of players, including quarterback Bradley George (2,660 yards, 26 TDs, 6 INTs) and running back Karrington Bush (1,065 yards, 11 TDs). Those two lead an explosive offense that could better last year's average of 453.3 yards per game.

The Bobcats didn't have a great defense a year ago, but they grew up as the season progressed. Rover Marcus Clark (85 tackles) and middle linebacker Joe Bell (69 tackles, 2 INTs) are back.

There's excitement at **Northwestern State** (7-5, 4-3) about the return of former defensive coordinator Bradley Dale Peveto, who was co-defensive coordinator at LSU last year. The new head coach, who was an assistant in Natchitoches, from 1996 to 1998, is greeted by the school's biggest senior class (21) in years and a recruiting haul ranked by some as the best in the Football Championship Subdivision.

New offensive coordinator Todd Cooley brings an offense called "Purple Strike," which will feature quarterback John Hundley (1,307 yards, 8 TDs). The defense is savvy with nine returning starters, led by safety Wesley Eckles (89 tackles, 2 INTs).

**Nicholls State** (3-6, 3-4) might ramp up enough momentum to be a contender in the Southland Conference this year—if only the weather will cooperate. Hurricane Gustav robbed the Colonels of not only three games in 2008, but their preseason workouts, too.

Antonio Robinson (20 catches, 502 yards, 6 TDs) returns at receiver, but has no experienced quarterback to throw to him. Linebacker Garrick Spain (60 tackles, 1 INT) was the Colonels' top stopper a year ago.

Conference opponents had better stay on their toes during matchups against **Southeastern Louisiana** (5-7, 2-5) this season. The Lions are hungry to reach the .500 mark with a team that returns seven starters on offense, six on defense and both kickers. Quarterback Brian Babin (2,806 yards, 25 TDs) ignites the offense, while top returning receiver Chris Wilson (51 catches, 740 yards, 8 TDs) is also back. Safety Tommy Connors (108 tackles) and linebacker Mark Newbill (100) will lead the defense.

For most programs, four wins isn't much to get excited about, but after going 0-11 in 2007, last year's record is a step in the right direction for **Stephen F. Austin** (4-8, 2-5).

Second-year offensive coordinator Shannon Dawson has injected excitement into the Lumberjacks' offense, which has the benefit of nine returning starters. Not the least of those is junior quarterback Jeremy Moses (4,026 yards, 41 TDs, 20 INTs), though All-America receiver Dominique Edison is gone. The defense is led by senior All-America end Tim Knicky.

**Sam Houston State** (4-6, 2-5) has the unenviable task of replacing quarterback Rhett Bomar, the school's all-time leader in passing yards (5,564) and total offense (6,160). Junior Bryan Randolph and sophomore Jeff Welch will vie to replace him, but they combined for only five completions for 25 yards in 2008. James Ashton (886 yards, 11 TDs) and Chris Poullard (1,038, 13 in 2007) return to give the Bearkats a strong running game.

Defensively, Sam Houston returns just three starters, though that group includes two-time All-SLC defensive end Chris Brown, who has 14 sacks over the last two seasons.

# SWAC

## Beating Grambling State a tall order for SWAC members

By Lut Williams
*Black College Sports Page*

Late coaching legend Eddie Robinson instilled a winning tradition at Grambling State, which appears in good hands with third-year coach Rod Broadway.

The Tigers have appeared in the SWAC's championship game in each of the past two seasons. After faltering two years ago, the 2008 squad administered a 41-9 thrashing to Jackson State to win the title. And in '09, Grambling will likely be back at the top.

Perhaps more remarkable than Grambling's success is Henry Frazier's turnaround of a once-moribund program at Prairie View A&M. The Panthers may have moved past Southern as the Tigers' chief competitor for West Division honors. However, a victory over Grambling will be a tall task this year.

In the East, Jackson State appears to be the team to beat, but any squad from that division looks to play second fiddle to the three powerful programs in the West.

### EAST DIVISION

Quarterback Trae Rutland must improve in 2009 for **Jackson State** (7-5 overall, 6-2 SWAC) to keep its status in the East Division. The team that averaged just 21.1 points per game last season returns running backs Luther Edwards (445 yards, 7 TDs), Darius Bolela (308 yards) and Bloi-Dei Dorzon, who suffered a season-ending injury in '08.

The Tigers lost four All-SWAC defenders, including 2008 Defensive Player of the Year Marcellus Speaks and Marcus Benard, who set a school record with 16 sacks.

**Alabama A&M** (5-7, 4-3) needs to get its defense back to an elite playing level. Safety Al Donaldson and end Jeremy Maddox have the skills to do so.

The offense returns a bevy of talent in quarterback Kevin Atkins (2,167 passing yards, 13 TDs), running back Ulysses Banks (555 yards, 9 TDs) and wide receiver Thomas Harris (72 receptions, 1,208 yards, 7 TDs).

New offensive and defensive coordinators will join coach Reggie Barlow in hopes of changing the fortunes at **Alabama State** (3-8, 2-5). Richard Moncrief has the task of improving an offense that ranked at the bottom of the SWAC last year. Quarterback Brandon Dowdell, running back Rahmod Traylor and receiver Darius Mathis emerged from spring drills as starters.

New defensive coordinator Jo Nixon will count on linebackers Adrian Hardy (80 tackles) and Rechard Johnson (72) and cornerback Donovan Masline (3 INTs).

Quarterback Paul Roberts' passing (2,039 yards, 14 TDs) was a bright spot for **Mississippi Valley State** (3-8, 1-6) last year. He returns to throw to wide receivers Brandon Stargell (39 catches, 3 TDs) and Cameron Russ (32, 6).

The defense has five of its top six tacklers back, led by linebacker Rory Malone.

After a dismal year, **Alcorn State** (2-10, 1-6) suffered a tumultuous offseason that resulted in the dismissal of coach Ernest Jones in favor of defensive coordinator Earnest Collins Jr. Quarterback Tim Buckley, receiver Ed Johnson and running back Davaris Pilcher are keys to ratcheting up the offense.

### TOP PLAYERS

**Offense** » Bryant Lee, *QB, Southern*
**Defense** » Anthony Beck, *CB, Prairie View A&M*
**Newcomer** » Kenneth Black, *QB, Prairie View A&M*

### WEST DIVISION

**Grambling State's** (11-2, 8-0) 2008 championship team dominated the SWAC with most of its players being underclassmen. Quarterback Greg Dillon (1,387 passing yards, 18 TDs) should improve, along with standout running backs Cornelius Walker (719 yards, 4 TDs) and Frank Warren (546, 4).

First-team All-SWAC end Christian Anthony (55 tackles, 8 sacks) heads a defense with a secondary that led the Football Championship Subdivision in interceptions last year.

Frazier continues to write a remarkable story at **Prairie View A&M** (9-1, 6-1), as the Panthers posted their best record since 1964 last season. Nine starters return to an offense that led the league in scoring (30.7 ppg) and six are back from the SWAC's stingiest defense (237.8 yards per game, 12.8 ppg). Conference rushing leader Donald Babers (1,085 yards, 11 TDs) will take pressure off probable starting quarterback Jay Bluford. But before he takes the reins, Bluford will be challenged by Western Kentucky transfer Kenneth Black.

All-SWAC honorees Quinton Spears (end) and Anthony Beck (cornerback) will pace the defense.

**Southern** (6-5, 5-2) boasts two of the league's most lethal offensive players in quarterback Bryant Lee (2,682 yards, 20 TDs), the 2008 SWAC Offensive Player of the Year, and wide receiver Juamorris Stewart (76 receptions, 1,138 yards, 12 TDs), the only unanimous first-team All-SWAC member. Coach Pete Richardson needs to rebuild on defense after losing four All-SWAC players from the unit.

Talented running back Mickey Dean (632 yards, 5 TDs) will be the focal point of an offense at **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (3-9, 2-5) that must choose a new signal-caller. Vying for the job is Gvona Turner, who played in eight games last season, junior-college transfer Rontrell Bailey and Will Dunn.

Safeties Robert Mingo and Kevin Thornton will lead the secondary, while tackle Ibraham Abdulai will anchor the line.

Coach Johnnie Cole has loaded up on transfers with the hope of moving **Texas Southern** (4-8, 1-6) out of the SWAC basement. Quarterback Arvell Nelson, a former Iowa player, will have receiver William Osbourne (82 receptions, 1,092 yards, 7 TDs) and returning tailbacks Marcus Wright (513 yards, 7 TDs) and Lucas Caparelli as weapons. Cole will also surround returning linebackers Dejuan Fulghum and William Parker with a host of newcomers.

### PREDICTIONS

**EAST**

1. Jackson State
2. Alabama A&M
3. Alabama State
4. Mississippi Valley State
5. Alcorn State

**WEST**

1. Grambling State
2. Prairie View A&M
3. Southern
4. Arkansas-Pine Bluff
5. Texas Southern

### GAME TO WATCH

**10/03/09** »
Prairie View A&M vs. Grambling St. @ Dallas (Cotton Bowl)

As long as the Prairie View Panthers remain title contenders, this will be the most anticipated game of the season.

FCS

# DIVISION II PREVIEW

ISAAC ODIM
MINNESOTA-DULUTH

MINNESOTA-DULUTH, 2008 CHAMPIONS

COURTESY UMD ATHLETICS

## Lakers should rise back to top, but don't count out a title rematch between Minnesota-Duluth and Northwest Missouri State

By Gregg Dewalt
*Florence (Ala.) TimesDaily*

The defining moment of the 2008 season came two weeks before Minnesota-Duluth traveled to Florence, Ala., for the Division II championship game.

It was in that quarterfinal matchup, a 19-13 double-overtime win against Grand Valley State, that the Bulldogs of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference served notice of their dominance.

What followed in the next two weeks—a 45-7 semifinal thrashing of California (Pa.) and a title-clinching 21-14 verdict against Northwest Missouri State—solidified that Minnesota-Duluth was the best team in Division II.

"Nobody saw it coming," says NSIC commissioner Butch Raymond of the championship. "We're a relatively new conference, only about 16 or 17 years old, and we hadn't won many playoff games. Initially, we were known as a basketball conference."

Credit Duluth with having a stake in changing that perception.

"To do what they did (in the playoffs)—win one home game and then win the rest of them on the road—that's pretty impressive," Raymond says. "Any time you win at Grand Valley, you have to be pretty good because they don't lose at home. That win was the highest-profile win our conference has had."

In the championship game, Duluth used its tough defense to force four turnovers and limit All-America running back LaRon Council to 99 yards and no touchdowns to secure the title.

For Northwest Missouri State, it was a familiar ending to recent seasons.

Losing the championship game in four consecutive seasons by a total of 19 points might send lesser coaches into a depression.

Not so with Northwest Missouri State's Mel Tjeerdsma, who maintains a sense of humor, even in defeat. When asked what he might have done differently after the Bearcats lost in the championship game, Tjeerdsma deadpanned, "Maybe score a few more points."

Grand Valley State and Minnesota-Duluth are expected to be in the title hunt in 2009. Will there be a December rematch? It's hard to say because too many other teams are capable of making a run similar to that of the Bulldogs' perfect season a year ago.

"Second-guessing doesn't do you any good," Tjeerdsma says. "What helps me put it aside and move on is what our team has been able to do. In football, you can't live in the past, win or lose. Our team has been able to do that."

## SportingNews DIVISION II ALL-AMERICA TEAM

### OFFENSE

- **QB ▸ BILLY CUNDIFF** (6-2, 209, SR.) ASHLAND
- **RB ▸ LaRON COUNCIL** (5-10, 210, SR.) NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE
- **RB ▸ ISAAC ODIM** (6-0, 215, JR.) MINNESOTA-DULUTH
- **WR ▸ JOHNNY SPEVAK** (6-3, 200, JR.) CENTRAL WASHINGTON
- **WR ▸ LOGAN MASTERS** (6-3, 180, SR.) WAYNE STATE (NEB.)
- **WR ▸ JEREMIAH WATTS** (6-3, 187, SR.) MERRIMACK
- **OL ▸ TONY WASHINGTON** (6-7, 300, SR.) ABILENE CHRISTIAN
- **OL ▸ J'MARCUS WEBB** (6-8, 320, SR.) WEST TEXAS A&M
- **OL ▸ JARED VELDHEER** (6-8, 311, SR.) HILLSDALE
- **OL ▸ SAM WHITNEY** (6-4, 285, SR.) MINNESOTA-DULUTH
- **OL ▸ NATE NURSE** (6-5, 295, JR.) CALIFORNIA (PA.)
- **ATH ▸ SCOTT BUISSON** (5-10 175, JR.) ARKANSAS-MONTICELLO
- **K ▸ MARK PETRO** (5-10, 190, SR.) HILLSDALE

### DEFENSE

- **DL ▸ DANNY RICHARD** (6-4, 250, JR.) GRAND VALLEY STATE
- **DL ▸ MARC SCHIECHL** (6-3, 250, JR.) COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
- **DL ▸ DREW BERUBE** (6-4, 262, SR.) HILLSDALE
- **DL ▸ JAMAAL STEAMER** (6-2, 245, SR.) TARLETON STATE
- **LB ▸ LARDESTER HICKS-GREEN** (6-1, 235, SR.) DELTA STATE
- **LB ▸ MICHAEL JOHNSON** (6-4, 250, SR.) NORTH ALABAMA
- **LB ▸ JOHN JACOBS** (6-2, 230, SR.) SAGINAW VALLEY STATE
- **LB ▸ MATT FREED** (5-10, 205, JR.) EAST STROUDSBURG
- **DB ▸ COLE STRILZUK** (5-11, 190, SR.) MINNESOTA-DULUTH
- **DB ▸ MYLES BURNSIDES** (5-11, 195, SR.) NORTHWEST MISSOURI ST.
- **DB ▸ AKWASI OWUSU-ANSAH** (6-1, 190, SR.) INDIANA (PA.)
- **DB ▸ JAKE MANDELKO** (6-0, 200, SR.) NEBRASKA-KEARNEY
- **P ▸ JOHN GREGORY** (6-2, 210, SR.) TUSCULUM

**Grand Valley State** (11-1) was stunned in overtime at home by Minnesota-Duluth in the quarterfinals, but that doesn't mean the Lakers have spent the offseason sulking. Coach Chuck Martin has the talent to make another run at the championship, and the Lakers, as usual, are the team to beat in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Returning quarterback Brad Iciek (31 TD passes) should have a stellar running game with 1,403-yard rusher James Berezik. And defensive end Danny Richard returns after collecting 17 tackles for loss and eight sacks in 2008.

Over the past four seasons, **Northwest Missouri State** (13-2) made it to the championship, only to fall short of the school's third national title. Don't count the Bearcats out of a fifth consecutive appearance. Running back LaRon Council (1,739 rushing yards, 35 TDs) had a breakout junior campaign after replacing Xavier Omon and will again be the focal point of the offense.

In one season, **Minnesota-Duluth** (15-0) went from being the hunter to the hunted. Duluth will be hard-pressed to match last year's offensive (40.9 points per game) and defensive (11.5) numbers. Coach Bob Nielson must replace quarterback Ted Schlafke (3,018 yards, 35 TD passes), but running backs Isaac Odim and Brad Foss, who combined for 2,510 yards and 37 TDs, should ease the transition for a new signal-caller.

**Delta State** (12-2) will try to defend its Gulf South Conference title with two of the league's best players. Versatile running back Trevar Deed had 879 yards receiving and 608 rushing last year, while linebacker Lardester Hicks-Green finished with 100 tackles, including 15.5 for loss.

**Edinboro** (9-2) quarterback Trevor Harris lost his top four receivers after throwing for 2,780 yards and 26 TDs in 2008, but the nation's fifth-best scoring defense (13.1 ppg) returns seven starters. That could give the Fighting Scots the edge they need to capture the West title in a rugged Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference race.

**Pittsburg State** (11-2) coach Chuck Broyles must rebuild since only nine starters return. John McCoy and Zac Dickey will battle to replace All-America quarterback Mark Smith, while Western Washington transfer linebacker Caleb Jessup (128 tackles a year ago) will bolster the defense.

After ranking fourth nationally in rushing yards per game, **Bloomsburg** (11-2) won't have to change its formula with the return of running backs Derrick Price and Kenny Domzalski, who combined for 2,157 yards and 10 TDs in 2008. Quarterback Dan Latorre added 545 rushing yards and eight scores while throwing 19 TD passes.

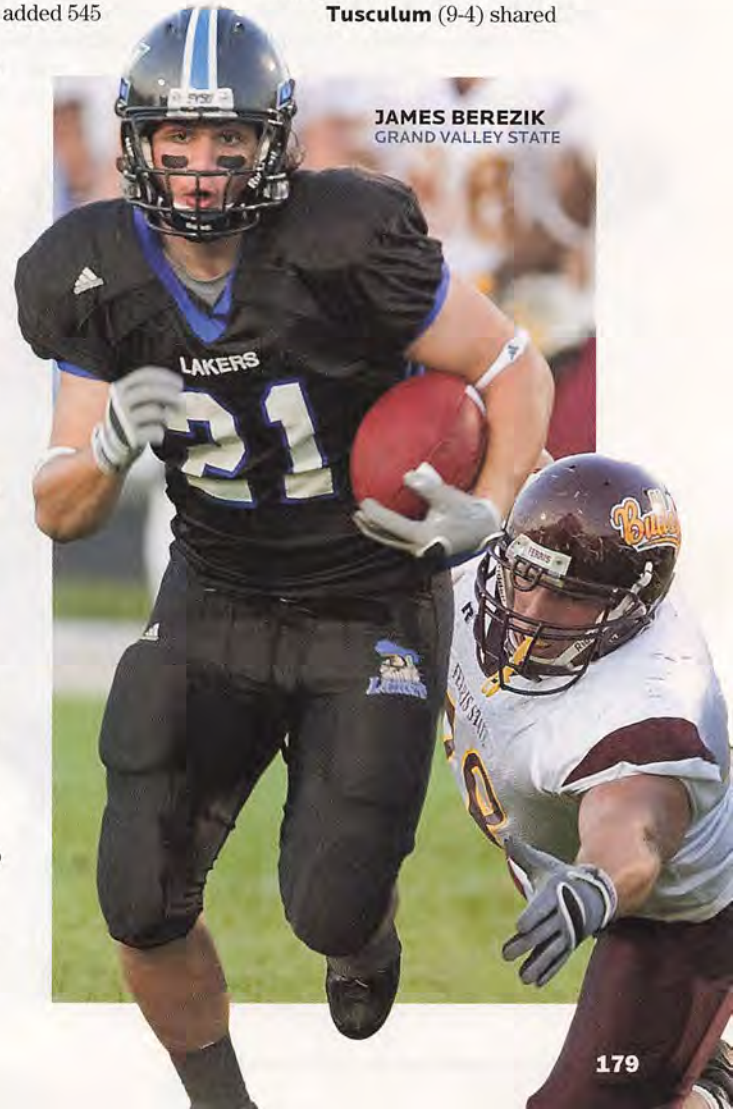
**Carson-Newman** (7-4) needs to figure out how to win close games. Its four losses last year were by a total of 18 points. The Eagles bring back versatile quarterback Alex Good (13 TD passes, 12 rushing TDs) and four All-South Atlantic Conference defensive players.

**Central Oklahoma** (7-4) won its final seven games after Brandon Noohi took over at quarterback, finishing with the school's first winning season since 2004. Noohi won five Lone Star North Player of the Week awards and finished with 1,990 passing yards and 11 TDs, while adding eight rushing scores. Defensive end Jermelle Curdjo contributed 15 tackles for loss.

**Central Washington** (10-2) should be the class of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and returns All-America wide receiver Johnny Spevak, but must replace Harlon Hill Trophy runner-up quarterback Mike Reilly, who triggered an offense that scored 504 points in 2008.

Former Auburn coach Terry Bowden takes over at **North Alabama** (11-2), a 2008 playoff semifinalist that was decimated by graduation losses, including quarterback A.J. Milwee, a Harlon Hill Trophy finalist. Linebacker Michael Johnson leads what should be a formidable defense, and Bowden has promised to retool the offense with championship-caliber transfers.

**Tusculum** (9-4) shared




JAMES BEREZIK
GRAND VALLEY STATE

COURTESY DOUG WITTE / GVSU ATHLETICS

the SAC title with Carson-Newman last year, and with 20 returning starters, the Pioneers have a chance to make a playoff run. Receivers Ryan Tallent, Nate Binder and Jerell NeSmith combined for 208 catches, 2,568 yards and 25 TDs, but quarterback Corey Russell must be replaced.

**California (Pa.)** (12-2) has lost in the semifinals the past two seasons to the eventual national champions. The Vulcans will walk a difficult path if they hope to make another final four appearance with the departure of quarterback Kevin McCabe (3,214 passing yards, 32 TDs) and running back Daine Williams (1,149 yards, 11 TDs).

**Ashland** (9-4) won its first playoff game in school history, and with GLIAC Player of the Year Billy Cundiff (37 TD passes), the Eagles are never out of a game. How far they go this year will depend on improving a defense that gave up at least 40 points six times.

**Abilene Christian** (11-1) put up 93 points in a playoff win against West Texas A&M, but the top three performers—running back and Harlon Hill Trophy winner Bernard Scott, quarterback Billy Malone and wide receiver Johnny Knox—are gone. Coach Chris Thomsen returns 12 starters, but the Wildcats will be hard-pressed to replace the departing talent.

**Tuskegee** (10-1) had its 26-game winning streak snapped against Alabama State on a controversial call that league officials later admitted was incorrect. Moving past that and replacing quarterback Jacary Atkinson (23 TD passes, 11 rushing TDs) are the biggest challenges facing coach Willie Slater and the reigning Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champions.

**Chadron State** (11-2) transitioned into the post-Danny Woodhead era (a two-time Harlon Hill Trophy winner) with another playoff season. Returning wide receivers Brandon Harrington and Isaac Stockman combined for 151 catches and 1,638 yards last year. But they'll be catching passes from a new quarterback with the graduation of Joe McLain.

**Minnesota State-Mankato** (9-3) should challenge Duluth for NSIC supremacy with a solid corps of returning starters that includes kick returner Kelvin Rodgers, who averaged 103.2 all-purpose yards per game in 2008. Rodgers returned two kickoffs and two punts for scores, as well as an interception. The bulk of Mankato's skill-position players also return, including quarterback Ryan Fick.

**Valdosta State** (9-3) has two of the best offensive players in the GSC in running back Ronnye Nelson and wide receiver Cedric Jones. But the Blazers lost incumbent quarterback Chris Hart—who will sit out this season for personal reasons—and All-America safety Sherard Reynolds, who graduated. Those losses will make it an uphill battle for the Blazers in their quest for a conference title.

## PRESEASON TOP 25

1 GRAND VALLEY STATE
2 NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE
3 MINNESOTA-DULUTH
4 DELTA STATE
5 EDINBORO
6 PITTSBURG STATE
7 BLOOMSBURG
8 CARSON-NEWMAN
9 CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
10 CENTRAL WASHINGTON
11 NORTH ALABAMA
12 TUSCULUM
13 CALIFORNIA (PA.)
14 ASHLAND
15 ABILENE CHRISTIAN
16 TUSKEGEE
17 CHADRON STATE
18 MINNESOTA STATE-MANKATO
19 VALDOSTA STATE
20 NEBRASKA-KEARNEY
21 SETON HILL
22 INDIANA (PA.)
23 AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL
24 ARKANSAS TECH
25 SHAW

With 15 returning starters, including 10 on offense, **Nebraska-Kearney** (7-4) could overtake Chadron State as the premier team in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. Center Jack Hiett, a three-time All-RMAC first-team selection, anchors a veteran line that will protect quarterback Jake Spitzlberger. Kyle Kaiser is Spitzlberger's favorite target and is coming off a 1,000-yard season at receiver.

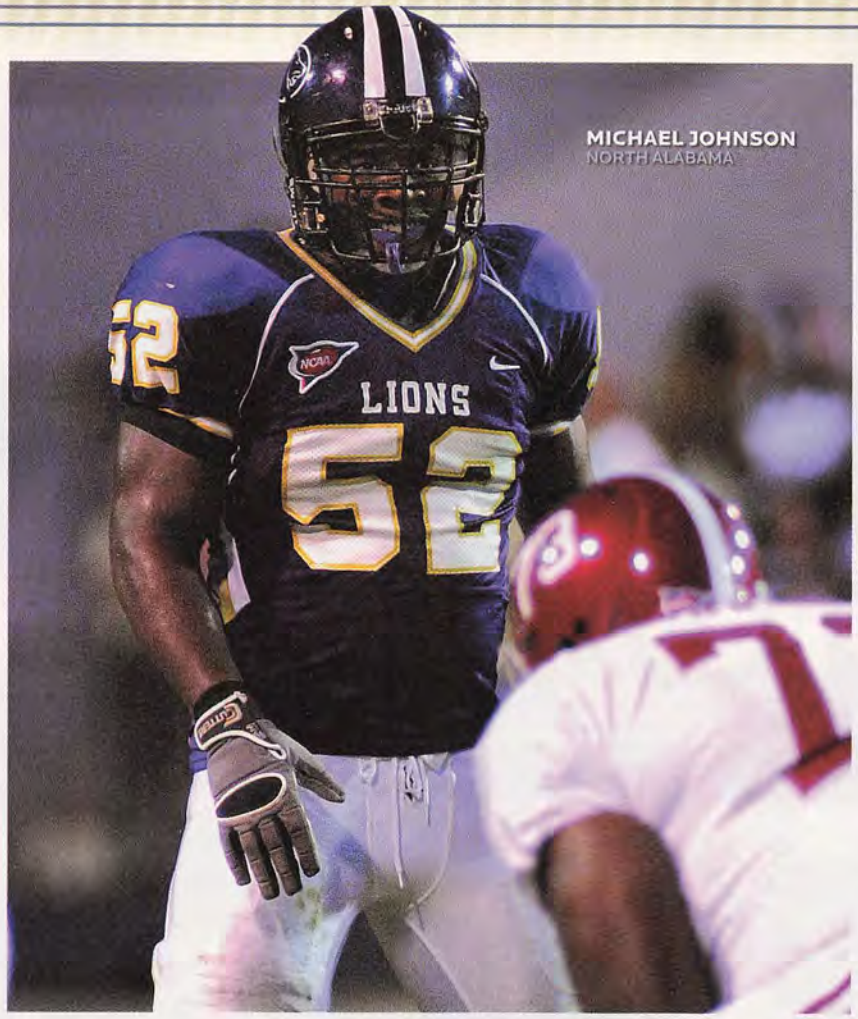
**Seton Hill** (10-3) won the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and a first-round playoff game before running into California (Pa.). A repeat playoff run rests on wide receiver Sammy Tranks, a third-team *AP* Little All-American who scored 12 TDs last year, including five on kickoff and punt returns.

**Indiana (Pa.)** (8-2) cornerback Akwasi Owusu-Ansah (8 interceptions) is the top returning player on the nation's second-best scoring defense (11.4 ppg). The Crimson Hawks' offense is in good hands as quarterback Andrew Krewatch returns after throwing for 2,449 yard and 22 TDs last year.

**American International** (9-2) must replace wide receiver Travis Poole and

DAN LATORRE
BLOOMSBURG

COURTESY BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION




MICHAEL JOHNSON
NORTH ALABAMA

COURTESY MASON MATTHEWS

his 1,209 receiving yards, but returns quarterback Rob Parent, who threw 28 TD passes in 2008.

There's reason for optimism at **Arkansas Tech** (5-5), which returns 16 starters and adds University of Nevada transfer Nick Graziano at quarterback. Defensively, the top eight tacklers return for new defensive coordinator Jeff Byrd, as the Wonder Boys try to crack the upper echelon of the GSC.

**Shaw** (8-3) will try to defend its Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association title with a strong corps of returning offensive players that includes quarterback Travis Robinson (20 TD passes) and three running backs who combined for 1,811 yards and 19 TDs in 2008.

## OTHERS TO WATCH

### East

**Southern Connecticut** (8-3) looks to replace Northeast-10 Offensive Player of the Year John Wiechman at running back and Defensive Player of the Year Jerome Pinckney at linebacker, while **East Stroudsburg** (9-2) hopes for another standout season from *AP* Little All-America linebacker Matt Freed, who led the PSAC with 126 tackles.

**Kutztown** (5-6) has made steady progress under fourth-year coach Raymond Monica, and with 16 returning starters, the team could improve on last year's four league wins, which tied a school record.

Mike Lopez enters his third season as coach at **Fairmont State** (5-6), and he'll rely on wide receiver Perry Baker to provide big plays in the passing game.

**Shepherd** (5-5) features one of the top kick returners in Deante Steele, who ran back two punts and two kickoffs for scores in 2008.

**New Haven** will play its first football game since 2003 after reviving its program. The Chargers played in the 1997 NCAA Division II championship game.

### Midwest

**Wayne State (Neb.)** (9-3) tied a school record with nine wins and returns wide receiver Logan Masters (80 catches, 1,179 yards) and linebacker Ryan Reeves, who led the NSIC with 125 tackles.

**Central Missouri** (7-4) sustained two last-second losses in 2008, and coach Willie Fritz is counting on several transfers to improve the team's standing in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

**Wayne State** (8-3) tied the school record for wins and needs a big season from running back Joique Bell (who already holds five school records) to make a run at the GLIAC title.

**Nebraska-Omaha** (7-4) was decimated by graduation, including its backfield, receivers and linebackers, but coach Pat Behrns usually finds a way to reload.

**Winona State** (6-5) has one of the NSIC's top defensive backs in Lucas Wolf, who intercepted six passes in his freshman season.

**Michigan Tech** (8-3) owns one of the nation's best running backs in Phil Milbrath, who finished with 1,343 yards a year ago.

**Ferris State** (6-5) must replace defensive tackle Jake Visser, a Harlon Hill Trophy candidate, along with six other defensive starters.

### South

**Wingate** (8-3) won seven games in a row before losing three of four, including its final two by a combined five points. Nelson Woods is the focal point on offense after rushing for 1,238 yards in 2008.

**Newberry** (6-4) must replace SAC Defensive Player of the Year Will Newell and revamp a running game that didn't have a tailback rush for more than 500 yards in '08.

**Albany State** (7-4) lost to Tusculum in the first round of the playoffs and must replace quarterback Kisan Flakes.

**Arkansas-Monticello** (7-4) is another GSC team on the rise. The Boll Weevils have one of the most versatile quarterbacks in the country in Scott Buisson, who rushed for 1,319 yards and threw for 2,700 last year.

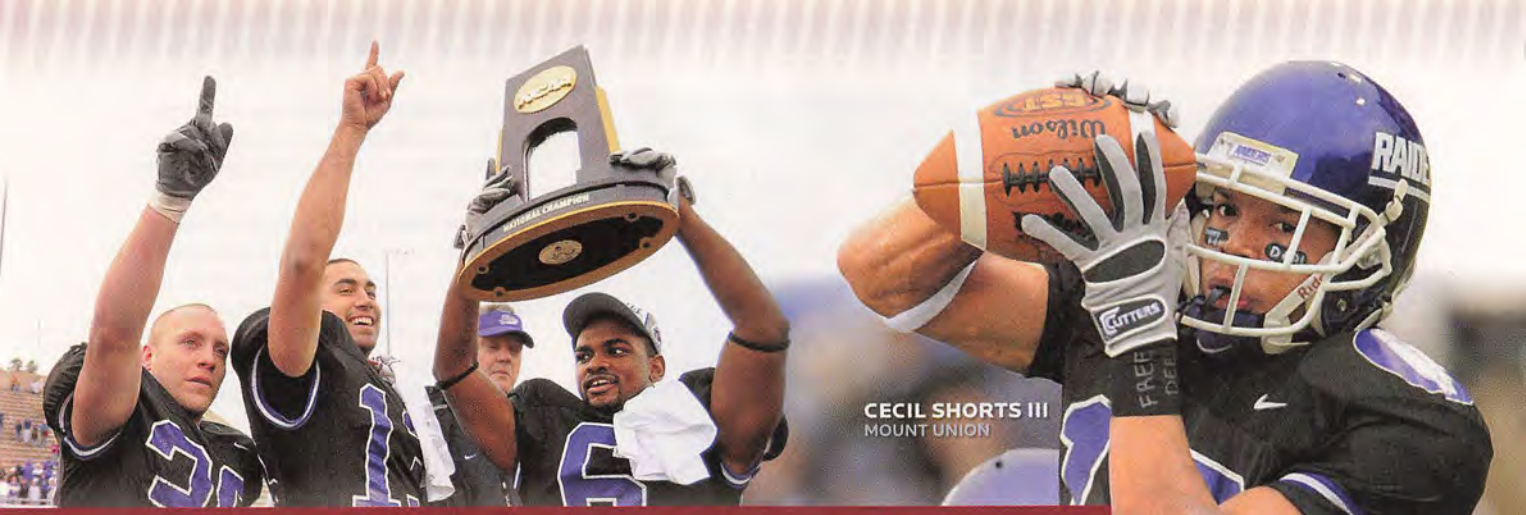
### West

With 12 returning starters, **Western Oregon** (7-4) will try to overtake Central Washington in the GNAC.

All-Lone Star running back Roderick Smith (1,024 yards, 13 TDs) is **Tarleton State's** (8-3) top returning player.

## GAMES TO WATCH

| | |
|---|---|
| SEPT. 5 | CARSON-NEWMAN AT NORTH ALABAMA |
| SEPT. 5 | NEW HAVEN AT LINCOLN |
| SEPT. 12 | NORTHWEST MISSOURI VS. PITTSBURG STATE |
| SEPT. 26 | CHADRON STATE AT NEBRASKA-KEARNEY |
| OCT. 17 | EDINBORO AT CALIFORNIA (PA.) |
| OCT. 24 | GRAND VALLEY AT ASHLAND |



CECIL SHORTS III
MOUNT UNION

# DIVISION III PREVIEW

MOUNT UNION, 2008 CHAMPIONS

## Perennial champ Mount Union can always count on two things: unrivaled community support and a target on its back

By Mike Goens
*Florence (Ala.) TimesDaily*

Green Bay has long been known as "Title Town, U.S.A." for the unprecedented success enjoyed by the city's NFL franchise. But Alliance, Ohio, can stake its claim to that distinction as well.

Alliance is home to Mount Union football, the NCAA Division III program that owns a little history of its own. The Purple Raiders have won 10 national championships since 1993 and were runners-up two other times during that 16-year span.

It's a run that made Mount Union the envy of collegiate athletics and the folks in Alliance swell with pride.

"You want to be there when they play, everyone does," says John Benincasa, the city council president. "What they have accomplished and what they have meant to our community has been very positive. You can go to other parts of the country, mention you're from Alliance and they know about you and your football team."

That positive recognition has had an immeasurable influence on the town of about 25,000. Alliance, once known for its manufacturing, has seen its economic backbone evaporate through the years. But one constant has been the success of Larry Kehres' football program. He has a 275-21-3 record in 24 seasons.

Kehres and his players are like rock stars in Alliance. For instance, the town holds a community night every February. Local residents fill the college's cafeteria to see a highlight film of the previous season, hear a few speeches and wait in line for hours to get autographs from their favorite players.

"He (Kehres) runs a class program and the football players are good people," Benincasa says. "They go into local schools and read to students and get involved in the community in other ways. Besides all that, they play damn good football."

Still, Mount Union will likely meet a familiar opponent at the season-ending Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl—preseason No. 1 Wisconsin-Whitewater. The two teams have played for the Division III championship in Salem, Va., for the past four seasons with the Purple Raiders winning three of the last four games, including last year.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ANDRES ALONSO / NCAA PHOTOS / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; COURTESY MOUNT UNION COLLEGE (2)

This could be the year **Wisconsin-Whitewater** (13-2) reclaims the top prize. The Warhawks are one of the most respected and feared teams thanks to the leadership of just three coaches during the past 54 years. Coach Lance Leipold is 27-3 in two seasons and has a lot of weapons returning from a team that lost a nailbiter to Mount Union in last year's title game.

Ten starters are back on offense and nine on defense. The lone offensive loss is at tackle, but five backups across the line return. The line overpowered defenses last year, opening the way for two runners to surpass the 1,000-yard plateau—Levell Coppage (1,461 yards) and Antwan Anderson (1,231). All the receivers return, as does dependable quarterback Jeff Donovan. On defense, end Anthony White and cornerback Troney Shumpert should cause trouble for opposing offenses.

Don't expect **Mount Union** (15-0) to go away despite losing some key players, especially on offense. The Raiders, who led the nation in both total offense and total defense last year, are known for quality reserves who shine when called on.

Cecil Shorts III (77 catches, 1,484 yards, 23 TDs) is as good as it gets at wide receiver. Vince Petruziello and A.J. Claycomb are also receiving threats, while four starters are back on the offensive line. The key will be the play of quarterback Kurt Rocco and running back Scott Panchik, both of whom will try and fill the shoes of All-America players.

On defense, where nine starters return, James Herbert (15 sacks) dominates up front and Matt Williamson brings strength to the line, while linebacker Sam Kershaw and safety Drew McClain are big-play performers.

**St. John's (Minn.)** (8-3) had an average 2008—an 8-3 record is good for most teams but below the standard set by John Gagliardi during his legendary 60 years in coaching. Boasting a 461-125-11 mark, he will coach his 600th game Sept. 19.

The Johnnies have 14 starters back. The defense will be among the nation's best and gets a lift with the return of lineman Nick Gunderson, who missed all but one game last year with an injury. Linebacker Ethan Eid, cornerback Dominic Haik, safety Bobby Klint and linebacker Ryan Wimmer have all-star credentials. The offense will lean on four returning linemen and quarterback Joe Boyle. Watch for receiver Ben Vanderheyden to have a big year, too.

**Mary Hardin-Baylor** (12-2) has been among the nation's elite in recent years and that won't change this season. The Cru have won or shared seven of the past eight American Southwest Conference titles and return six starters on both offense and defense.

To continue its success, the team will need to replace three offensive linemen and a quarterback. Kyle Noack, who started four games last year, will likely win the job at signal-caller. The running game, led by Quincy Daniels (injured much of last season) and Bryson Tucker will be solid, while Pi'Dadro Davis leads the receivers. Linebackers Jeremy Salinas and Ben Beckworth and cornerback Brett Parker are superb on defense.

Keep an eye on **Delaware Valley** (8-3), which has a vast arsenal, particularly on offense. Quarterback Mike Isgro passed for 1,787 yards and 21 touchdowns and ran for another 366 yards last year. He is considered a leader who does whatever it takes to get the job done. Running back Matt Cook, who rushed for 1,323 yards, is also a threat.

The defense is led by linebacker Kyle Gresswein, who had 105 tackles and 11.5 sacks last year. Cornerback Charles Squitiere and lineman Derek Porter are other defensive standouts.

Don't look now, but **Rowan** (8-2) appears ready to leap back into contention for national honors. The Profs, who appeared in five of seven national championship games in the 1990s, have 10 starters returning on offense and seven on defense. Quarterback Frank Wilczynski passed for 1,471 yards and led the team with 803 rushing yards last season, while Ken Siano and Josh Weiss lead the offensive line. On defense, expect big plays from linebackers Drew Yezzi and Kevin Taylor and lineman Kyle Kane.

If **Hardin-Simmons** (9-2) gets consistent line play on offense, the Cowboys will be hard to beat. Returning quarterback Justin Feaster threw for 3,023 yards, 31 touchdowns and only eight interceptions in 2008. ZaVious Robbins will be the top receiver and is a threat in the return game. The defense is expected to shine with eight starters back. Linebackers Shelton Rainey and Ricky Poe and end Hank Hornsby anchor the front seven, while Michael Tracy and Anthony McKnight are superb in the secondary.

**North Central** (11-1) looks to take another step toward the top rung of the Division III ladder after winning its third

JEFF DONOVAN
WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER

ANDRES ALONSO / NCAA PHOTOS / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

## PRESEASON TOP 25

1 ▸ WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER
2 ▸ MOUNT UNION
3 ▸ ST. JOHN'S (MINN.)
4 ▸ MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR
5 ▸ DELAWARE VALLEY
6 ▸ ROWAN
7 ▸ HARDIN-SIMMONS
8 ▸ NORTH CENTRAL
9 ▸ WARTBURG
10 ▸ WABASH
11 ▸ MONMOUTH
12 ▸ CURRY
13 ▸ WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON
14 ▸ CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT
15 ▸ WESLEY
16 ▸ BRIDGEWATER (VA.)
17 ▸ HOBART
18 ▸ JOHNS HOPKINS
19 ▸ WHEATON (ILL.)
20 ▸ CASE WESTERN
21 ▸ CORTLAND
22 ▸ REDLANDS
23 ▸ WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE
24 ▸ LYCOMING
25 ▸ OTTERBEIN

FRANK WILCZYNSKI
ROWAN

COURTESY ROWAN UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION

straight conference crown and returning to the playoffs for the fourth straight time. The Cardinals have their key leaders back, including seven starters on both sides of the ball.

Aaron Fanthorpe is a double threat at quarterback (2,145 passing yards and 383 rushing). Running back Dominic Sulo rushed for 1,070 yards and 11 touchdowns, and receiver Steve Hlavac had 54 receptions in 2008. Linebacker Matt Wenger (137 tackles, 8 INTs) and cornerback Derek Sulo should again stand out on defense.

After advancing to the national quarterfinals last season, **Wartburg** (10-3) has its eyes on something better. Quarterback Nick Yordi (3,036 passing yards) is capable of dominating defenses. Center Morgan O'Connor leads up front, but a go-to receiver must emerge. The keys will be finding defensive leaders and stabilizing the kicking game.

**Wabash** (10-2) is in good shape. Quarterback Matt Hudson (3,135 yards, 29 TDs) provides the leadership needed on offense. His top target, Kody LeMond (73 catches, 1,228 yards), also returns. Kick-return specialist Wes Chamblee is a weapon, as is kicker Spencer Whitehead. Linebacker Bryan Watson is the defensive leader for the Little Giants.

**Monmouth** (11-1) led the country in scoring last year with nearly 47 points a game and has 10 offensive starters back from that unit, including quarterback Alex Tanney and offensive linemen Josh Kotecki and Dan Schwindenhammer. The top gun on defense is end Anthony Goranson.

For the past six seasons, **Curry** (10-2) has been a constant in the playoffs and should be a solid contender again with seven starters back on offense and eight on defense. Linebacker Scott Driscoll returns after being named the New England Football Conference's Most Valuable Defensive Player last year. Defensive tackle Curtis Ushry is a disruptive force up front.

Known for its passing attack, **Washington & Jefferson** (11-2) will likely be more balanced this year, as big things are expected from running back Derek Taylor. The Presidents must replace a standout quarterback and three starters on the offensive line. Receiver Craig Besong (75 catches for 1,186 yards) is as good as anyone in D3, and you can expect quarterback Steven Shumaker to lean on him. The team's defense, with seven starters back, will carry the team early.

**Christopher Newport** (8-2) has made the playoffs in each of the last six years and there's plenty of experience returning—nine starters on defense and six on offense. The Captains have one of the country's best running backs in Tunde Ogun (1,794 yards, 16 TDs). He topped 200 yards in four consecutive games in 2008.

**Wesley** (9-2) has posted 45 wins the past four years and looks to be solid again in its bid for a fifth straight playoff appearance. There are 13 starters back, including dominant defensive lineman Mike Ward. Safety Aaron Benson is another standout defender. Quarterback Shane McSweeny is efficient and dangerous, but will need a couple of receivers to step up.

Failing is not something **Bridgewater** (4-6) is accustomed to, so expect the Eagles to rebound from their first losing season since 1998. There is plenty of speed among the nine returning offensive starters. Tyler Bieler is a deep receiving threat and will benefit from a better quarterback. Leading tackler T.J. Montague returns along with defensive lineman Austin Icaza.

**Hobart** (9-2) is looking for its eighth playoff appearance since 2000 and its defense should lead the way. Cornerback Drake Woodard (7 INTs) is among seven returning starters on the unit. The Statesmen have good talent returning on offense, but Doug Vella is the only player with any experience at quarterback.

Youth prevailed at **Johns Hopkins** (8-3) last year as the team reached the eight-win mark for the fifth time in seven years. Nine returning offensive players are part of a group that accounted for 4,122 of the team's 4,158 yards and all 34 touchdowns. Running back Andrew Kase rushed for 1,635 yards and 17 touchdowns last year. If the defense holds together, it could be a big year for the Blue Jays.

**Wheaton (Ill.)** (11-3) was tough to handle last season. It should be more of the same in '09, with a balanced offensive attack led by Rocky Gingg (1,290 rushing yards) and Sean Norris (3,137 passing yards, 32 TDs). The defense must step forward, however.

The largest senior class in 25 years returns at **Case Western** (10-1), where the Spartans hope to build on a 21-game regular-season win streak. Quarterback Dan Whalen (2,192 yards, 17 TDs) is among nine offensive starters who return. His No. 1 target will be Shaun Nicely. Seven starters are back on defense, including cornerback Bobby Bott (7 INTs) and lineman Dale English (14 tackles for loss).

**Cortland** (11-2) seems to have earned the respect it has been searching for, as no one is discounting the

## GAMES TO WATCH

- SEPT. 19 ▸ ROWAN AT CORTLAND
- OCT. 3 ▸ MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR AT HARDIN-SIMMONS
- OCT. 17 ▸ WITTENBERG AT WABASH
- OCT. 24 ▸ DELAWARE VALLEY AT LYCOMING
- OCT. 24 ▸ WHEATON AT NORTH CENTRAL
- OCT. 24 ▸ TRINITY AT DEPAUW
- OCT. 31 ▸ WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER AT WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT
- NOV. 7 ▸ CENTRAL AT WARTBURG
- NOV. 14 ▸ WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER AT WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

## SportingNews DIVISION III ALL-AMERICA TEAM

**OFFENSE**

- QB ▸ **ALEX TANNEY** (6-4, 190, JR.) MONMOUTH
- RB ▸ **TUNDE OGUN** (6-0, 220, SR.) CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT
- RB ▸ **DERON BROWN** (5-8, 190, SR.) MIT
- WR ▸ **CECIL SHORTS III** (6-0, 180, SR.) MOUNT UNION
- WR ▸ **PATRICK O'CONNOR** (6-1, 190, SR.) DICKINSON
- WR ▸ **KODY LEMOND** (5-11, 166, JR.) WABASH
- OL ▸ **JOSH KOTECKI** (6-1, 245, SR.) MONMOUTH
- OL ▸ **BLAINE WESTEMEYER** (6-5, 280, SR.) AUGUSTANA
- OL ▸ **MATT FERGUSON** (6-5, 300, SR.) WESLEY
- OL ▸ **JOSH OSTRUE** (6-4, 285, SR.) ST. THOMAS
- OL ▸ **JOSH SHIVERS** (6-1, 278, SR.) MILLSAPS
- TE ▸ **ZACH FRIEDRICH** (6-3, 175, SR.) GREENVILLE
- K ▸ **JEFF SCHEBLER** (6-0, 182, SR.) WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER

**DEFENSE**

- DL ▸ **MARCUS BALL** (6-1, 220, SR.) WISCONSIN-STOUT
- DL ▸ **GERRARD BRYANT** (6-0, 240, SR.) ST. LAWRENCE
- DL ▸ **JAMES HERBERT** (6-1, 224, SR.) MOUNT UNION
- DL ▸ **NICK GUNDERSON** (6-4, 270, SR.) ST. JOHN'S
- LB ▸ **KYLE GESSWIN** (6-2, 219, JR.) DELAWARE VALLEY
- LB ▸ **MATT WEGNER** (5-11, 220, SR.) NORTH CENTRAL
- LB ▸ **RANDY WRIGHT** (6-1, 215, JR.) ELMHURST
- LB ▸ **BRAD STEINMETZ** (6-0, 224, SR.) THOMAS MORE
- DB ▸ **DRAKE WOODARD** (5-11, 165, SO.) HOBART
- DB ▸ **BOBBY BOTT** (6-1, 190, SR.) CASE WESTERN
- DB ▸ **TRONEY SHUMPERT** (5-8, 165, SR.) WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER
- DB ▸ **TOM TASSINARI** (6-3, 210, SR.) TUFTS
- P ▸ **KURTIS BRONDYKE** (6-3, 190, JR.) CENTRAL

Red Dragons even though all starters must be replaced on offense. Dan Pitcher, a transfer from Colgate, can provide stability as he steps in at quarterback. Cory Russell is expected to be a strong running threat.

Defensively, the Dragons have six starters back, including linebacker Brian Haas (102 tackles) and cornerback D.J. Romano (5 INTs).

Thanks to 17 returning starters, **Redlands** (7-2) is a team to watch. The list of returnees includes quarterback Dan Selway, the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's 2007 Player of the Year, who missed much of last season with a broken foot. Brenden Barkate and Sean Scott are both solid receiving threats, and eight starters return from a defense that is stingy against the run.

After a subpar 2008, **Wisconsin-La Crosse** (3-7) appears on the verge of returning to national prominence. The Eagles have 550 wins and two national championships. Sixteen starters return, including key players in quarterback Nick Anker, tailback Reid Oldenburg and center Andrew Gebel. Defensively, cornerbacks Derek Dreher and Matt Winney will be counted on, as will linebacker Aaron Johnson.

**Lycoming** (7-4) is another team trying to recapture glory. Replacing four offensive linemen will be crucial, but quarterback Colin Dwyer, tailback Josh Kleinfelter and receivers Ryan Wagaman and Brad Shellenberger can deliver. Linemen Ted Geurds and Kyle Murren and safety Chuck Bellitto will lead a defense that returns seven starters.

The best team behind Mount Union in the Ohio Athletic Conference is always strong, and **Otterbein** (9-2) has a chance to play that role this season. After making its first playoff appearance last year, the '09 campaign could rest on whether quarterback Jack Rafferty returns. He has a year of eligibility remaining but has graduated. Rafferty threw for 22 touchdowns and rushed for seven others last season. The running game will be solid with Colton Coy, and receiver Ryan Rowley had 56 catches last year.

### OTHERS TO WATCH

#### East

Quarterback Tim Bailey (2,609 yards, 21 TDs) could make **St. John Fisher** (7-4) a contender.

**Ithaca** (9-2) has eight starters back on defense and running back Thomas Bergerstock (1,240 yards) returns on offense.

**Montclair State** (8-3) has a lot of experience on offense in Jeff Bliss (1,053 rushing yards) and kicker Marco Capozzoli, and the defense returns safety Mario McLean and lineman Chris Merkle.

**Salisbury** (9-2), led by lineman Chris Hutton and running back Bryan Woolson, will be one of the favorites in the Eastern College Athletic Conference.

**Rensselaer** (8-2) will be in business with the return of all five offensive linemen, its top running back and three of its top receivers, led by Patrick McCarthy. Linebacker Stefan Schulz is one of seven starting defenders back.

Patrick O'Connor should be one of the nation's top receivers in 2009 and could lead **Dickinson** (6-4) back to the playoffs.

Finding a quarterback to complement talented receiver Felipe Diaz will be important for **Brockport** (7-4).

**Lebanon Valley** (6-4), with running back Charlie Parker among 16 starters back in 2009, could be a surprise.

#### Midwest

**Wisconsin-Stevens Point** (9-2) could have a say in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference race with UW-Whitewater and UW-La Crosse. Quarterback Jared Beckwith (2,461 yards, 16 TDs) and his go-to receiver, Jared Jenkins (83 catches, 912 yards), return.

**Franklin** (11-2) has work to do in replacing 15 starters, but four of the returnees are on the offensive line, including tackle Seth Qualls and center Chad Schenkel. Linebackers Nick Cochran and Joe Rush will lead the defense.

Quarterback Spud Dick (2,896 yards, 25 TDs) and receiver Alex Koors (55 catches, 926 yards) will make **DePauw** (8-2) a threat.

**Aurora** (9-2) will try to repeat its playoff season but must replace three starters on the offensive line.

**Central** (6-4) has not had a losing season since 1960 and the Dutch are likely to rebound from last year's dip. Nate Snead is ready to go at quarterback and looks prepared to lead the team, as does all-purpose player Jarred Lackey.

A young **Baldwin-Wallace** (5-5) team lost several close games last year but will have potent returning weapons in quarterback Anthony Gardner, running back Kyrell Crook and three receivers with double-digit catches.

#### South

Earning a playoff spot came as a surprise to **Randolph-Macon** (6-5) last year, but the Yellow Jackets are expected to be strong this season with 16 starters returning, including Zak Thornton (1,249 rushing yards).

**Union** (5-4) could surprise opponents with running back Chris Coney (1,283 yards, 18 TDs).

Another team to keep an eye on is **Mississippi College** (5-5). The Choctaws have quarterback Adam Shaffer back from injury and tailback Desmond Mays (1,137 yards) will be on hand as well.

#### West

**Cal Lutheran's** (7-2) defense, led by cornerback Victor Edwards, could keep the team in contention in the SCIAC.

**Linfield** (6-3) has three starters on the offensive line and quarterback Aaron Boehme is back from injury.

Standout receiver Greg Ford makes **Pacific Lutheran** (3-6) a threat.

# NAIA PREVIEW

### TOP 10

1. Sioux Falls (S.D.)
2. Carroll (Mont.)
3. Lindenwood (Mo.)
4. Morningside (Iowa)
5. St. Francis (Ind.)
6. MidAmerica Nazarene (Kan.)
7. Baker (Kan.)
8. Friends (Kan.)
9. Lambuth (Tenn.)
10. Ohio Dominican

## Annual NAIA dance will feature familiar partners

By Tyler Nelson, *Sporting News*

Last year's National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics title game wouldn't have ended any other way. Since 2002, the national championship has featured either Sioux Falls or Carroll.

So when the two met for the title last December, there was little surprise. In sloppy, rainy conditions, Sioux Falls avenged a 2007 championship game loss to Carroll, winning last season's bout 23-7 and earning its third title in school history.

As the two final teams line up in the 54th NAIA title game Dec. 19 in Rome, Ga., look for the usual suspects, Sioux Falls and Carroll, to be in the mix.

**Sioux Falls** (S.D.) steamrolled its way to perfection in 2008 with a potent offense (36.5 points per game) and a defensive juggernaut that shut out its opponents seven times.

As for this season, coach Kalen DeBoer has the pieces in place for a title repeat. Sioux Falls returns 17 starters, including senior quarterback Lorenzo Brown and senior offensive lineman T.J. Wendt.

The defense will be bolstered by three junior-college linebackers: Cameron Covey, Steven Kala and Alexander Morales.

**Carroll** (Mont.) will have to set its sights on a sixth national title and 10th straight Frontier Conference crown without one of the best defenders in school history, Owen Koeppen. The two-time All-America linebacker claimed NAIA Player of the Year last season. Linebacker Mac Gordon (66 tackles) will take the reins of an inexperienced defense.

The Fighting Saints do return quarterback Gary Wagner, who broke his left ankle two games into 2008.

With so many holes on offense, **Lindenwood** (Mo.) will rely on its stout defense to make a run at the NAIA title game—a year after the school's first-ever semifinal appearance.

The Lions return their top seven tacklers, including cornerback Brandon Gould (team-high 78 tackles) and linebacker Logen Wright (77).

Quarterback Tim Richard has a big pair of shoes to fill at **Morningside** (Iowa), as he steps in for Ian Gilworth (3,130 yards, 41 TDs). Richard will throw to receiver Beau Kidlow (977 receiving yards).

With 12 returning starters, coach Kevin Donley and **St. Francis** (Ind.) has a chance to make its seventh straight trip to the semifinals of the NAIA playoffs. Running back Daniel Carter leads the returnees after scoring 20 touchdowns in 2008.

If first-year coach Jonathan Quinn wants to defend **MidAmerica Nazarene's** (Kan.) Heart of America Athletic Conference title, he'll rely on running back Ashford Johnson, whose transition to a starting spot will be eased with the return of four All-HAAC linemen.

Thanks to arguably the best skill-position players in the nation and landing highly touted junior-college transfers, **Baker** (Kan.) has a good shot at taking the HAAC crown. Quarterback Mack Brown, a former Colorado Buffalo, threw for 3,185 yards and 22 TDs in 2008.

Coach Monty Lewis looks to claim **Friends** (Kan.) another Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference title. Whoever replaces quarterback Alex Melguin will benefit from the return of running back Chris Bolander and fullback Brent Craddock.

In his debut last season, coach Hugh Freeze led **Lambuth** (Tenn.) to its first playoff appearance in five years. Projected sophomore starting quarterback Adam Wiese (1,108 passing yards, 14 TDs) saw ample playing time as a backup in '08.

**Ohio Dominican** will look to rebound without two-time All-America quarterback Cris Reisert, who owns 10 NAIA offensive records.

### TOP RETURNING STAT LEADERS FROM 2008

**OFFENSE**

**PASSING**

| | YR | G | ATT | CMP | YDS | TD | INT | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dane Broadhead, Carroll (Mont.) | SO | 11 | 184 | 120 | 1562 | 17 | 6 | 160.5 |
| Adam Wiese, Lambuth (Tenn.) | SO | 12 | 141 | 88 | 1108 | 14 | 5 | 154.1 |
| Chris White, Missouri Valley | JR | 10 | 231 | 134 | 2138 | 18 | 9 | 153.7 |

**RUSHING**

| | YR | G | CAR | YDS | AVG | TD | YDS/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A.J. Cooley, Shorter (Ga.) | SR | 12 | 261 | 1558 | 6.0 | 21 | 129.8 |
| Tanner Ehrlich, Black Hills State (S.D.) | JR | 10 | 174 | 1163 | 6.7 | 9 | 116.3 |
| Terence Pollock, Union (Ky.) | SR | 12 | 234 | 1331 | 5.7 | 11 | 110.4 |

**RECEPTIONS**

| | YR | G | REC | YDS | TD | REC/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mark Schlueter, Dana (Neb.) | JR | 11 | 112 | 1075 | 8 | 10.2 |
| Bubba Slaba, Dakota Wesleyan (S.D.) | SR | 10 | 76 | 1046 | 8 | 7.6 |
| Bryce Burton, Rocky Mountain (Mont.) | SR | 11 | 84 | 861 | 3 | 7.6 |

**SCORING**

| | YR | G | TD | XP | FG | PTS | PT/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Daniel Carter, St. Francis (Ind.) | SR | 13 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 150 | 11.5 |
| A.J. Cooley, Shorter (Ga.) | SR | 12 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 128 | 10.7 |
| Ryan Van Dalen, William Penn (Iowa) | SR | 11 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 110 | 10.0 |

**DEFENSE**

**TACKLES**

| | YR | G | SOLO | AST | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sean Thom, Faulkner (Ala.) | SR | 11 | 56 | 101 | 157 |
| Jon Culbertson, West Virginia Tech | SO | 11 | 35 | 100 | 135 |
| P.J. Hughes, Cumberlands (Ky.) | SR | 12 | 50 | 85 | 135 |

**SACKS**

| | YR | G | NO | YDS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anens Stevens, Edward Waters (Fla.) | SO | 9 | 16.0 | 50 |
| Lantz Mathers, Northwestern Oklahoma State | SR | 9 | 11.0 | 79 |
| Paul Klaboe, Montana Tech | JR | 11 | 11.0 | 58 |

**INTERCEPTIONS**

| | YR | G | NO | YDS | TD | INT/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ken Mitchell, Kansas Wesleyan | JR | 9 | 7 | 87 | 2 | 0.8 |
| Cole Perry, Friends (Kan.) | SO | 11 | 8 | 52 | 0 | 0.7 |
| Tom Lunzman, S.D. School of Mines & Tech | JR | 10 | 6 | 111 | 0 | 0.6 |

### SportingNews NAIA ALL-AMERICA TEAM

**OFFENSE**

- **QB** Lorenzo Brown (6-0, 195, Sr.) Sioux Falls (S.D)
- **RB** A.J. Cooley (6-2, 210, Sr.) Shorter (Ga.)
- **RB** Dan Carter (5-7, 160, Sr.) St. Francis (Ind.)
- **OL** Matt Sutton (6-3, 315, Sr.) St. Ambrose (Iowa)
- **OL** Cale Fischer (6-3, 280, Sr.) Northwestern Oklahoma State
- **OL** T.J. Wendt (6-2, 308, Sr.) Sioux Falls (S.D.)
- **OL** Steven Dawley (6-1, 274, Jr.) William Penn (Iowa)
- **OL** Jeff Hynes (6-1, 303, Sr.) Lindenwood (Mo.)
- **TE** Taylor Burnett (6-5, 230, Sr.) Ottawa (Kan.)
- **WR** Beau Kildow (5-10, 190, Sr.) Morningside (Iowa)
- **WR** Jason Lovett (5-11, 195, Sr.) Virginia-Wise
- **K** Kyle Chilton (5-11, 170, Sr.) Pikeville (Ky.)

**DEFENSE**

- **DL** Mike Hartley (6-2, 245, Sr.) Sioux Falls (S.D)
- **DL** Lantz Mathers (6-0, 236, Sr.) Northwestern Oklahoma State
- **DL** Anens Stevens (6-3, 220, So.) Edward Waters (Fla.)
- **DL** Alphaeus Williams (6-0, 203, Sr.) Baker (Kan.)
- **LB** Mike Lally (6-0, 225, Sr.) Saint Xavier (Ill.)
- **LB** Logan Lollis (6-2, 230, Sr.) Shorter (Ga.)
- **LB** Cameron Willkomm (6-0, 240, Sr.) Graceland (Iowa)
- **DB** Ken Mitchell (5-11, 180, Jr.) Kansas Wesleyan
- **DB** Grant Mosier (5-11, 185, Sr.) Northwestern (Iowa)
- **DB** Tom Lunzman (6-2, 200, Jr.) S.D. School of Mines & Tech
- **DB** Antonio Wardlow (6-0, 177, Sr.) Bethel (Tenn.)
- **P** Nick Tolsma (6-1, 194, Sr.) Dakota Wesleyan (S.D.)

# JUNIOR COLLEGE
## TALENT POOL RUNNETH OVER

### Four-year universities are increasingly tapping the junior-college pipeline

By **Tony Jimenez**
*Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal*

If you look at the recruiting classes of the country's dominant college teams, it's obvious coaches know the high caliber of athletes junior-college programs produce. After all, the LSUs and USCs of the world reel in juco players with regularity.

"The caliber of a juco player was good 10 years ago and it's good now," Oklahoma recruiting coordinator Cale Gundy says. "If we have a need for an older and more mature player and have a certain need, we'll go after them. The key is getting the right fit for your system."

Nebraska recruiting coordinator Ted Gilmore believes players from two-year schools are great if the program needs a seasoned talent who will make an impact right away.

"You want them for immediate help, to fill a void quickly," Gilmore says. "You, for sure, don't want them sitting; you want them playing."

Some athletes sign with junior colleges hoping to make names for themselves. For players like Butte Community College quarterback Jordan Rodgers—whose brother, Aaron, plays for the Green Bay Packers and is a former star for Butte and Cal—it's a way to maximize talent. Some four-year schools have built pipelines to junior colleges with the "sign-and-place" route. A talented player can hit the books and develop while the juco coach guides him back to the four-year school.

Whatever the case, colleges such as Butler County Community College in Kansas are preparing players for the next step while building nationally acclaimed junior-college programs. In nine years at Butler, coach Troy Morrell has sent 125 players to Football Bowl Subdivision programs.

"Some players may look at it as a step down, but when they get here they quickly realize that they are really a part of a D-I talent pool," Morrell says.

Mississippi Gulf Coast coach Steve Campbell contends that at least 25 Southeastern Conference-caliber players annually make pit stops at his state's 14 junior colleges before moving on—a list that includes one of his former players, Alabama nose guard Terrence Cody.

"JC players jump-start or fill some big holes for a lot of programs," Campbell says.

And it's not just the big boys that live off the feeder ranks.

"The top Southern D2 schools live on juco players," Butte coach Jeff Jordan says. "You can look at the rosters of four-year schools and see the significance of the junior-college programs. When players come here they know it's a chance for them to be seen and to get recruited."

**VIC BALLARD**
*Mississippi Gulf Coast CC*

COURTESY MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST CC SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

**TOP 10**

1. Grossmont CC (Calif.)
2. Butler County CC (Kan.)
3. Mississippi Gulf Coast CC
4. Mount San Antonio College (Calif.)
5. Butte CC (Calif.)
6. College of the Canyons (Calif.)
7. Snow College (Utah)
8. Navarro College (Texas)
9. El Camino CC (Calif.)
10. Ellsworth CC (Iowa)

## TOP JUCOS MOVING ON

| OFFENSE | POS. | HT. | WT. | JUCO (2009 SCHOOL) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Terrance Cain | QB | 6-1 | 190 | Blinn, Texas (Utah) |
| Leonard Mason | RB | 6-0 | 215 | College of the Desert, Calif. (Colorado State) |
| Lamon Muldrow | RB | 5-9 | 210 | Sierra, Calif. (San Jose State) |
| James Carpenter | OL | 6-5 | 305 | Coffeyville, Kan. (Alabama) |
| Joe Evinger | OL | 6-7 | 340 | College of the Canyons, Calif. (Louisville) |
| Anthony Morgan | OL | 6-4 | 325 | Navarro, Texas (Oklahoma State) |
| Ben Schoenberger | OL | 6-5 | 290 | Mississippi Gulf Coast (Southern Miss) |
| Danny Watkins | OL | 6-5 | 310 | Butte, Calif. (Baylor) |
| Peter Tuitupou | TE | 6-4 | 255 | Snow, Utah (Washington State) |
| Tyrece Gaines | WR | 6-3 | 210 | Butler County, Kan. (Oregon) |
| Joshua Bellamy | WR | 6-2 | 195 | Butte, Calif. (Iowa State) |

| DEFENSE | POS. | HT. | WT. | JUCO (2009 SCHOOL) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| James Aiono | DL | 6-3 | 282 | Snow, Utah (Utah) |
| Hebron Fangupo | DL | 6-2 | 330 | Mount San Antonio, Calif. (USC) |
| Eugene Kinlaw | DL | 6-2 | 294 | Hutchinson, Kan. (Troy) |
| **Pernell McPhee** | **DL** | **6-4** | **260** | **Itawamba, Miss. (Mississippi State)** |
| Bryson Littlejohn | LB | 6-0 | 235 | Sierra, Calif. (Oregon) |
| Josh Tatum | LB | 6-0 | 240 | City College of San Francisco (Missouri) |
| Tony Straughter | LB | 6-1 | 215 | Georgia Military (South Carolina) |
| Rudell Crim | DB | 6-0 | 190 | Butler County, Kan. (Arkansas) |
| Coryell Judie | DB | 5-11 | 190 | Fort Scott, Kan. (Texas A&M) |
| Anthony Leon | DB | 6-4 | 230 | College of the Sequoias, Calif. (Arkansas) |
| Taikwon Paige | DB | 5-10 | 175 | Georgia Military (Auburn) |

| SPECIALISTS | POS. | HT. | WT. | JUCO (2009 SCHOOL) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jacob Harfman | K | 5-10 | 200 | Mount San Antonio, Calif. (USC) |
| Derek Helton | P | 6-1 | 180 | Fort Scott, Kan. (LSU) |
| Travis Cobb | RET | 5-11 | 185 | Blinn, Texas (Arizona) |
| Cameron Kenny | AP | 6-2 | 195 | Garden City, Kan. (Oklahoma) |

| OTHERS | POS. | HT. | WT. | JUCO (2009 SCHOOL) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| B.J. Bell | DE | 6-4 | 245 | Santa Ana, Calif. (UNLV) |
| Leon Berry | WR | 6-1 | 185 | East Mississippi (Mississippi State) |
| Brandon Bogotay | K | 6-2 | 190 | Grossmont, Calif. (Georgia) |
| Sean Brauchle | K | 5-9 | 175 | Mississippi Gulf Coast (Mississippi State) |
| Aaron Brown | DB | 6-1 | 210 | Saddleback, Calif. (Hawaii) |
| Jacky Candy | FS | 6-1 | 200 | Coffeyville, Kan. (Houston) |
| Hayo Carpenter | WR | 5-11 | 185 | College of the Canyons, Calif. (Minnesota) |
| Ryan Clark | DB | 6-1 | 195 | Navarro, Texas (SMU) |
| Erik Dahl | OL | 6-2 | 285 | Butler County, Kan. (Missouri State) |
| Dean Deleone | DE | 6-2 | 245 | Orange Coast, Calif. (Arizona State) |
| Josh Dickerson | LB | 6-2 | 220 | Georgia Military (South Carolina) |
| DeQuin Evans | DE | 6-2 | 275 | Los Angeles Harbor (Kentucky) |
| Tevita Finau | DE | 6-5 | 275 | Phoenix, Ariz. (West Virginia) |
| Adam Froman | QB | 6-4 | 225 | Santa Rosa, Calif. (Louisville) |
| Dejon Gomes | CB | 6-0 | 190 | City College of San Francisco (Nebraska) |
| Alex Green | RB | 6-2 | 215 | Butte, Calif. (Hawaii) |
| Edwin Herbert | DT | 6-3 | 295 | City College of San Francisco (Florida) |
| Akiem Hicks | DT | 6-6 | 300 | Sacramento City, Calif. (LSU) |
| Jonathan Hollins | DT | 6-3 | 275 | College of the Canyons, Calif. (Arizona) |
| Brandon Kinnie | WR | 6-3 | 218 | Fort Scott, Kan. (Nebraska) |
| Andrew Iupati | DT | 6-1 | 295 | Golden West, Calif. (Oregon) |
| Daniel Mafoe | OG | 6-3 | 305 | El Camino, Calif. (Washington) |
| Jonathan Massaquoi | DE | 6-4 | 240 | Butler County, Kan. (Troy) |
| Chris Matthews | WR | 6-5 | 210 | Los Angeles Harbor (Kentucky) |
| Jason Pierre-Paul | DE | 6-6 | 265 | Fort Scott, Kan. (South Florida) |
| Jarred Price | LB | 5-10 | 215 | Blinn, Texas (California) |
| Donnie Pritchett | DE | 6-5 | 260 | Santa Rosa, Calif. (Fresno State) |
| Brandon Rankin | DL | 6-4 | 250 | Butte, Calif. (Washington State) |
| Darius Reynolds | QB | 6-3 | 190 | Reedley, Calif. (Iowa State) |
| Calvin Rubles | DB | 6-2 | 190 | Tyler, Texas (Kansas) |
| Laron Scott | DB | 5-9 | 180 | Butler County, Kan. (Georgia Southern) |
| Andre Simmons | WR | 6-3 | 200 | Independence, Kan. (Colorado) |
| Travis Stephens | DT | 6-3 | 265 | Blinn, Texas (Kansas) |
| Press Taylor | QB | 6-2 | 200 | Butler County, Kan. (Marshall) |
| Ryan Taylor | OC | 6-4 | 290 | Tyler, Texas (UCLA) |
| Andrew Tiller | OL | 6-6 | 320 | Nassau, N.Y. (Syracuse) |
| Jeff Vinson | OL | 6-8 | 350 | Lackawanna, Pa. (Oklahoma) |
| Myles Wade | DT | 6-2 | 310 | Arizona Western (Texas Tech) |
| Kevious Watkins | OL | 6-5 | 340 | Georgia Military (South Carolina) |
| Roy Watts | OL | 6-6 | 300 | Navarro, Texas (Houston) |
| Chris White | LB | 6-4 | 230 | Mississippi Gulf Coast (Mississippi State) |
| Quintin Woods | DE | 6-6 | 245 | Bakersfield, Calif. (Kansas) |

## 1 GROSSMONT CC *(Calif.) (5-5 in '08)*

With 15 returning starters (8 on offense, 7 on defense) and a deep bench, Grossmont is a team that can rebound after a down year. The Griffins will look to win in the trenches thanks to some outstanding talent. Quarterback Brandon Fricke will be protected by tackles Juan Bolanos (6-7, 330 pounds) and Charles Wiley (6-6, 290) and center Billy Dawson (6-2, 300). Nose guard Yun Ta'ala and ends Ja'Rodd Watson and Mikaele Vaimasanuu will make the line just as tough on the other side of the ball.

## 2 BUTLER COUNTY CC *(Kan.) (11-1)*

Only a handful of starters return, including defensive tackles Jovanta Boyd and Jeffrey Thompson, linebacker Forlando Johnson and offensive lineman DeShawn Smith. But don't be misled. While that group should be the heart of the team, Butler County always boasts marquee freshmen who quickly adapt to the next level. Running back Kwamaine Brown (5-10, 190) and receiver Dontel Watkins (6-5, 205) will be the freshmen to watch.

## 3 MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST CC *(10-2)*

The Bulldogs closed 2008 with a bang, pounding their final four opponents by a combined score of 182-29. What makes the feat more impressive is that two of the teams (Mississippi jucos Jones County JC and Pearl River CC) were in the National Junior College Athletic Association Top 10 at some point in the season. Mississippi Gulf Coast has finished in the NCJAA's top 10 the past four years, with a 12-0 mark in '07. The 'Dogs are centering their hopes this season around quarterback Greg Jenkins, running back Vic Ballard, receiver Kelvin Bolden, free safety Dameon Jackson and defensive linemen James Carmon and Wayne Dorsey.

## 4 MOUNT SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE *(Calif.) (12-2)*

Behind a high-scoring offense (599 points), the Mounties were sensational last season. Now Mount San Antonio is looking for revenge after falling to Butte in the California Community College Athletic Association title game. Quarterback Nick Lamaison will look to link up with talented wide receiver Jesse Canada, who caught 70 passes as a freshman. Highlighting the defense will be speedy cornerback Bruce Irvin (6-4, 220).

## 5 BUTTE CC *(Calif.) (12-0)*

While only eight starters return to a program that won its first CCCAA title last season, this is one of several two-year programs that always seems to be among the elite. Coach Jeff Jordan's significant returnees include offensive linemen Etuale Feo (6-5, 360) and Randall Huff (6-3, 280), cornerback A.J. Hills and quarterback Jordan Rodgers. A flood of talented newcomers should have the Roadrunners living up to their moniker in fine fashion.

COURTESY MISSISSIPPI STATE SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

## SUPER SOPHOMORES

| OFFENSE | POS. | HT. | WT. | JUCO |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ross Dausin | QB | 6-5 | 210 | Butler County, Kan. |
| Brandon Baldwin | RB | 6-0 | 195 | Shasta, Calif. |
| DeAndre Johnson | RB | 5-8 | 185 | Alfred State, N.Y. |
| Quintin Robinson | WR | 6-3 | 180 | Ellsworth, Iowa |
| Dexter Ransom | WR | 6-4 | 217 | Blinn, Texas |
| Jordan Lower | TE | 6-4 | 235 | Snow, Utah |
| Levy Adcock | OL | 6-6 | 315 | Northeastern Oklahoma A&M |
| Juan Bolanos | OL | 6-7 | 330 | Grossmont, Calif. |
| Ryan Clanton | OL | 6-5 | 295 | City College of San Francisco, Calif. |
| Jermarcus Hardrick | OL | 6-6 | 310 | Fort Scott, Kan. |
| DeShawn Smith | OL | 6-2 | 290 | Butler County, Kans. |

| DEFENSE | POS. | HT. | WT. | JUCO |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wayne Dorsey | DL | 6-8 | 250 | Mississippi Gulf Coast |
| Marquis Jackson | DL | 6-5 | 250 | College of the Canyons, Calif. |
| Brandon Joiner | DL | 6-3 | 255 | Navarro, Texas |
| Star Lotulelei | DL | 6-4 | 285 | Snow, Utah |
| Mychal Conel | LB | 6-0 | 215 | Golden West, Calif. |
| Paul Vassallo | LB | 6-3 | 240 | Sierra, Calif. |
| Forlando Johnson | LB | 5-11 | 215 | Butler County, Kan. |
| Dave Clark | DB | 6-2 | 190 | Independence, Kan. |
| Jakar Hamilton | DB | 6-2 | 205 | Georgia Military |
| Dontae Smith | DB | 6-2 | 180 | Reedley, Calif. |
| Hershal Thornton | DB | 6-1 | 205 | Lackawanna, Pa. |

| SPECIALISTS | POS. | HT. | WT. | JUCO |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mike Kusnierz | K | 5-11 | 210 | Rochester, Minn. |
| Sean Wren | P | 6-4 | 205 | Fullerton, Calif. |
| Eric Russell | ATH | 5-11 | 195 | Cerritos, Calif. |
| Brandon Grissom | ATH | 6-0 | 185 | Golden West, Calif. |

## 6 COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS *(Calif.) (12-1)*

Does defense win championships? If so, count Canyons in the running for all of the coveted juco marbles. The Cougars have seven returning defensive starters—the most talented being end Marquis Jackson. Last year, Jackson completed his first season with 60 tackles, one interception, seven pass breakups and a fumble recovery. He was the only freshman on the team to earn both All-State and All-America honors. Other assets include a solid incoming freshman class and impressive team speed. Put it all together and it bodes well for coach Garett Tujague.

## 7 SNOW COLLEGE *(Utah) (11-1)*

Coach Steve Coburn can sell a recruit on numerous reasons to play for the Badgers, but his two best pitches are the most important—winning and tradition. Coburn is 33-3 in his three seasons leading the team and two Snow alumni played in Super Bowl 43—Pittsburgh defensive lineman Brett Keisel and Arizona offensive lineman Deuce Lutui. In 2009, wide receiver Mazi Ogbonna (6-2, 190) and tight end Jordan Lower (6-4, 235) will be the main targets for quarterback Quinn Meacham. Tackle Ron Tongaonevai (6-1, 280) will lead the defense.

## 8 NAVARRO COLLEGE *(Texas) (10-1)*

Coach Nick Bobeck had a banner campaign in 2008, as his Bulldogs won the Southwest Junior College Football Conference's regular-season crown. Navarro's defense yielded 290.5 yards a game along with 17 interceptions, 42.5 sacks and 78 tackles for loss. There shouldn't be a drop-off in '09, as eight starters return on defense, highlighted by lineman Brandon Joiner (6-3, 255). Linebacker Brad Graham (6-0, 210) and cornerback Trevor Drayton (6-0, 185) are also back.

## 9 EL CAMINO CC *(Calif.) (10-2)*

With coach John Featherstone's leadership and stout recruiting, El Camino has turned into a monster program. He can also thank ESPN analyst and friend Chris Mortensen for helping him land Matt Simms, who transferred from Louisville. Mortensen recommended the school to former NFL great Phil Simms, Matt's father. After a visit, the former three-star quarterback signed on. If he wins the starting job, Simms will throw to receiver Kembrell Thompkins (57 catches, 1,100 yards). Cornerback Michael Harris and end Daniel Stewart will pace the defense.

## 10 ELLSWORTH CC *(Iowa) (8-3)*

Coach Michael Virden was the quarterback on the 1987 Ellsworth team that won an NJCAA championship—a feat the Panthers haven't repeated since. As for 2009, Ellsworth has a good shot. It returns 17 starters (9 on offense, 8 on defense) from a team that lost two of its three games by a combined 10 points last season. The big question is whether pint-sized quarterback Tirrell Rennie (5-11, 190), who totaled 3,827 yards (2,719 passing, 1,108 rushing) as a freshman can come up with an impressive encore. Receiver Quintin Robinson, cornerback Matt Harvey, linebacker L.J. Gamblin and defensive lineman Aaron Strumski also return.

BRANDON JOINER
*Navarro College*

## BEST OF THE REST

11 Sierra (Calif.) College (9-2)
12 Blinn (Texas) College (9-3)
13 City College of San Francisco (7-4)
14 Fort Scott (Kan.) CC (9-2)
15 Cerritos (Calif.) College (7-4)
16 Kilgore (Texas) College (6-4)
17 Pearl River (Miss.) CC (8-3)
18 Fullerton (Calif.) CC (10-2)
19 San Joaquin Delta (Calif.) College (8-3)
20 Saddleback (Calif.) CC (7-4)
21 Georgia Military College (9-2)
22 Foothill (Calif.) College (8-3)
23 Reedley (Calif.) College (7-4)
24 Laney (Calif.) College (8-3)
25 Harper (Ill.) College (11-1)

(L TO R): COURTESY GREG DART; COURTESY NAVARRO COLLEGE SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

2009 HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA TEAM

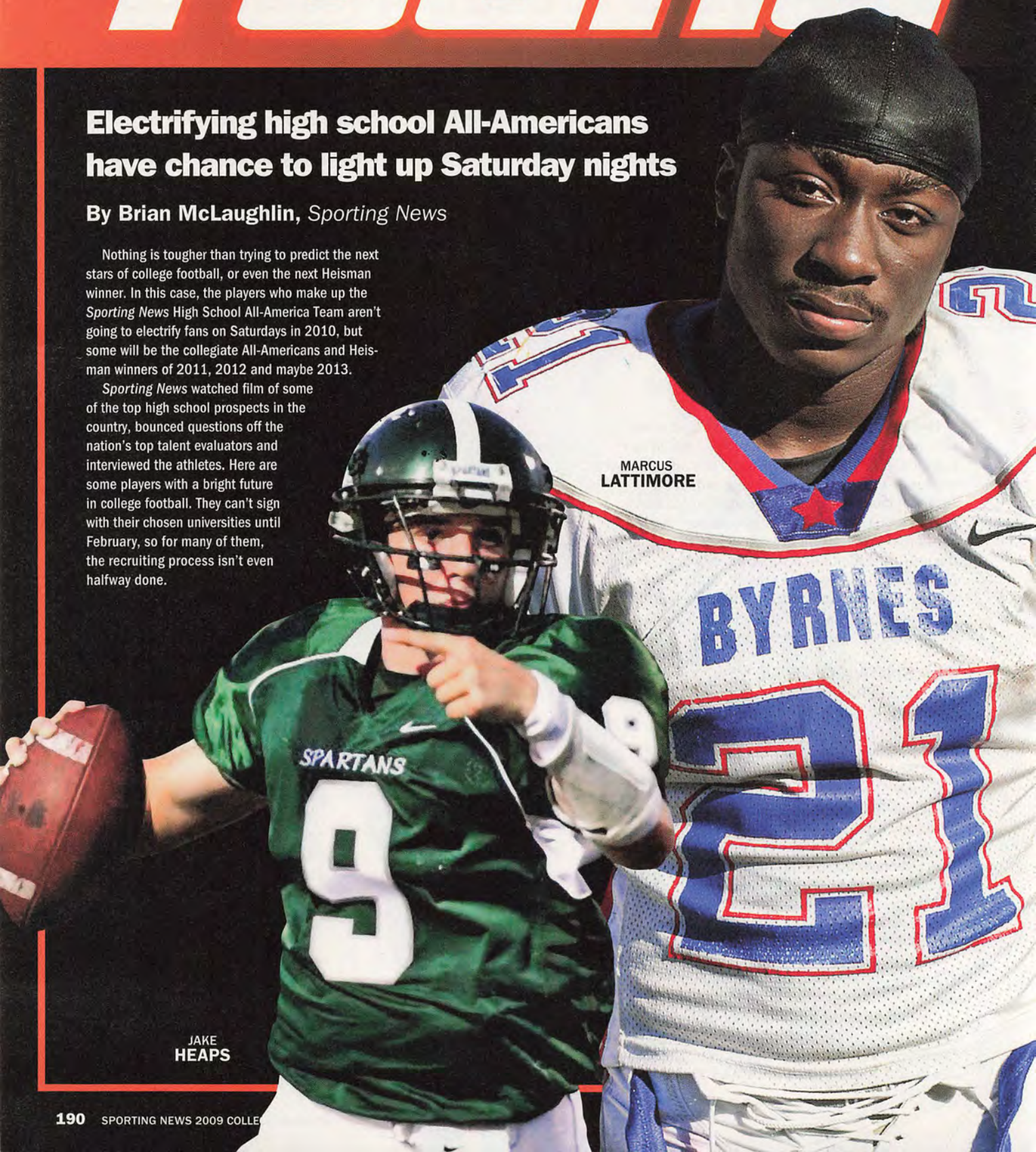
# YOUNG

## Electrifying high school All-Americans have chance to light up Saturday nights

**By Brian McLaughlin,** *Sporting News*

Nothing is tougher than trying to predict the next stars of college football, or even the next Heisman winner. In this case, the players who make up the *Sporting News* High School All-America Team aren't going to electrify fans on Saturdays in 2010, but some will be the collegiate All-Americans and Heisman winners of 2011, 2012 and maybe 2013.

*Sporting News* watched film of some of the top high school prospects in the country, bounced questions off the nation's top talent evaluators and interviewed the athletes. Here are some players with a bright future in college football. They can't sign with their chosen universities until February, so for many of them, the recruiting process isn't even halfway done.

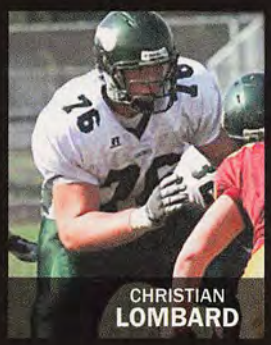


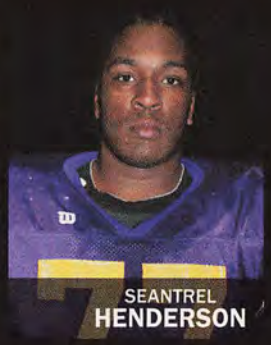

MARCUS **LATTIMORE**

JAKE **HEAPS**

# GUNS

DeMARCO COBBS


CHRISTIAN LOMBARD


SEANTREL HENDERSON

JUSTIN McCAY

## QB

This isn't a banner year for the quarterback position, yet despite lacking quantity, there's quality. Sammamish, Wash., signal-caller Jake Heaps is the top choice. He's already led Skyline High to two straight state championships, throwing for 6,104 yards, 69 touchdowns and only 11 interceptions. He's talented, humble and mature—and more than 20 schools want him. Washington is hoping to keep him in the state, but schools from the SEC to the Pac-10 have eyes on him too.

## RB

This position contains *Sporting News'* No. 1 player, Marcus Lattimore of James F. Byrnes (Duncan, S.C.) High. Clemson and South Carolina are salivating over this talented and well-versed back, but so is every other school in the nation. He's powerful and has speed. Lattimore doesn't dance around a defender, he just blows by or through them.

The other back in this group is more elusive. Temple (Texas) High running back Lache Seastrunk is shifty and slippery. Schools like Auburn, Oklahoma and Texas are just a few that would love a commitment from him.

## WR/TE

Bishop Miege (Shawnee, Kan.) High receiver Justin McCay provides versatility at several positions and is an outstanding kick-return threat, but several schools are looking at him as a receiver. He's confident, takes the game seriously and could be a leader. And the term "upside" isn't limited to his skills. Although McCay is 6-3 now, he has a brother who grew to 6-6, so he may add a few more inches to his stout frame. Teams from Oregon to Florida want him.

Opposite McCay in the lineup is Tulsa (Okla.) Central High do-everything talent DeMarco Cobbs, who accounted for 33 touchdowns his junior season. He has played quarterback in high school, but is projected as a receiver at the next level. Oklahoma probably has the edge with Cobbs, but Texas has also offered him a scholarship, as have dozens of other big-name schools.

## OL

This might be the "Year of the Offensive Lineman," and it starts with St. Paul, Minn., native Seantrel Henderson. He has outstanding footwork for a player who is 6-8 and 300 pounds, thanks to his basketball background. That ability to move has made him one of the most highly recruited players to ever come out of Minnesota. He's not boastful, but plenty of others tout the praises of the Cretin-Derham Hall High talent. Plan on some of the nation's biggest coaching names to flock to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area this season, hoping to steal this tackle away from the Big Ten.

The other noteworthy linemen include Oklahoma commitment Bronson Irwin (Mustang, Okla.), Notre Dame verbal Christian Lombard (Palatine, Ill.), Texas commitment Trey Hopkins (Galena Park, Texas) and uncommitted Erik Kohler (Westlake Village, Calif.). This fall, Kohler, who has attracted the Pac-10's attention, will protect quarterback Nick Montana, the son of NFL great Joe Montana.

## DL

Two of *SN's* defensive linemen have already chosen their schools. William M. Raines (Jacksonville, Fla.) High product Louis Nix picked Miami in early December, but several schools are still courting him, including national champion Florida.

Jackson Jeffcoat, of Plano (Texas) West Senior High, is another nimble lineman with a basketball background.

THIS PAGE (L TO R): COURTESY COREY RUSSELL / CENTRAL HIGH, COURTESY BRIAN MCLAUGHLIN, COURTESY RIVALS, COURTESY COLLEEN COOKE. OPPOSITE PAGE (L TO R): COURTESY JIM SIMPHINS, COURTESY RIVALS

He could end up anywhere from Georgia to USC, but one of the Big 12 powers seems like the best fit for the son of former Dallas Cowboy Jim Jeffcoat.

The other two standouts on the line are Gabe King of Page High in Greensboro, N.C., and Zack McCray of Brookville (Lynchburg, Va.) High. McCray got a first-hand look at the recruiting process when 2009 blue-chip recruit Logan Thomas (a Virginia Tech signee) went through it last year. King, who racked up 75 tackles as a junior, has dozens of options and is planning to take his time with the process.

## › LB

Talent and speed describe this trio. Justin Maclin, of Ridgeway (Memphis, Tenn.) High, told *SN* his top-five list consists of LSU, Alabama, Illinois, North Carolina and Tennessee. He grew up an LSU fan, but has gotten tons of pressure to play for the in-state Volunteers.

Southern Cal has been pursuing Christian Jones from 2,500 miles away and you can't blame the Trojans. Jones, who attends Lake Howell High in Winter Park, Fla., racked up 163 tackles and four sacks in 10 games last year. The Trojans will have to get through Florida, Florida State and Miami to earn Jones' services.

Corey Nelson, of Skyline (Dallas) High, is a playmaker. Nelson had a stellar junior campaign, notching 156 tackles, 12 sacks and nine blocked punts. His motor runs at a different level than most, and all of the schools in the Big 12 would love to get him.

## › DB

One of the most exciting players in this year's class is cornerback Lamarcus Joyner, who transferred from Miami Southwest High to *ESPN RISE* mythical national champion St. Thomas Aquinas in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Like many players in south Florida, speed is Joyner's game. He accounted for 14 touchdowns as a junior.

Also in the defensive backfield are Dietrich Riley of St. Francis (La Canada, Calif.) High, Garry Peters of Heritage (Conyers, Ga.) High and Texas commitment Carrington Byndom of Lufkin (Texas) High. Riley has attracted the attention of most of the Pac-10, and schools from the East are beginning to take notice, as Peters is coveted by just about every SEC and ACC school.

## › ATH

Matt Elam and Jamel Turner could play several positions and would dominate any of them. Elam, of Dwyer High in West Palm Beach, Fla., accounted for 12 touchdowns on offense and 91 tackles on defense in 2008. He has already committed to Florida. Turner dominated at Ursuline (Youngstown, Ohio) High, racking up 23 sacks as a junior last year. He can play on either the defensive line or linebacker and has committed to Ohio State.

## › K/P

Jupiter (Fla.) High kicker Cody Parkey is already committed to Auburn and will be a long-distance threat for the Tigers, while Whitefish Bay (Wisc.) High punter Will Hagerup is one of the few specialists who boasts multiple offers (Tennessee, Florida and Wisconsin, among others).

*SPORTING NEWS*

# CLASS OF 2010

## HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA TEAM

| OFFENSE | | HT. | WT. | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| QB | Jake Heaps | 6-1 | 195 | Skyline | Sammamish, Wash. |
| RB | Marcus Lattimore | 5-11 | 210 | James F. Byrnes | Duncan, S.C. |
| RB | Lache Seastrunk | 5-11 | 190 | Temple | Temple, Texas |
| WR | Justin McCay | 6-3 | 200 | Bishop Miege | Shawnee, Kan. |
| WR | DeMarco Cobbs | 6-1 | 200 | Tulsa Central | Tulsa, Okla. |
| TE | Xavier Grimble | 6-5 | 245 | Bishop Gorman | Las Vegas, Nev. |
| OL | Seantrel Henderson | 6-8 | 300 | Cretin-Derham Hall | St. Paul, Minn. |
| OL | Bronson Irwin | 6-5 | 320 | Mustang | Mustang, Okla. |
| OL | Christian Lombard | 6-5 | 290 | William Fremd | Palatine, Ill. |
| OL | Erik Kohler | 6-4 | 265 | Oaks Christian | Westlake Village, Calif. |
| OL | Trey Hopkins | 6-4 | 260 | North Shore | Galena Park, Texas |
| K | Cody Parkey | 6-0 | 195 | Jupiter | Jupiter, Fla. |
| ATH | Matt Elam | 6-0 | 205 | Dwyer | Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. |
| **DEFENSE** | | | | | |
| DL | Gabe King | 6-5 | 245 | Page | Greensboro, N.C. |
| DL | Zack McCray | 6-4 | 228 | Brookville | Lynchburg, Va. |
| DL | Louis Nix | 6-2 | 320 | William M. Raines | Jacksonville, Fla. |
| DL | Jackson Jeffcoat | 6-4 | 233 | Plano West Senior | Plano, Texas |
| LB | Corey Nelson | 6-0 | 210 | Skyline | Dallas |
| LB | Justin Maclin | 6-4 | 215 | Ridgeway | Memphis, Tenn. |
| LB | Christian Jones | 6-4 | 220 | Lake Howell | Winter Park, Fla. |
| DB | Dietrich Riley | 6-0 | 181 | St. Francis | La Canada, Calif. |
| DB | Lamarcus Joyner | 5-9 | 165 | St. Thomas Aquinas | Fort Lauderdale, Fla. |
| DB | Garry Peters | 6-0 | 175 | Heritage | Conyers, Ga. |
| DB | Carrington Byndom | 6-0 | 165 | Lufkin | Lufkin, Texas |
| P | Will Hagerup | 6-4 | 215 | Whitefish Bay | Whitefish Bay, Wis. |
| ATH | Jamel Turner | 6-3 | 210 | Ursuline | Youngstown, Ohio |

CARRINGTON **BYNDOM**

COURTESY BRIAN MCLAUGHLIN

*THE NEXT*

# TOP 100 PLAYERS TO WATCH

## Quarterbacks

| | HT. | WT. | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Blake Bell | 6-6 | 215 | Bishop Carroll Catholic | Wichita, Kan. |
| Joe Boisture | 6-6 | 200 | Saline | Saline, Mich. |
| Barry Bostic | 5-10 | 155 | Jefferson County | Louisville, Ga. |
| Barry Brunetti | 6-0 | 210 | Memphis University | Memphis, Tenn. |
| Trey Burton | 6-3 | 203 | Venice | Venice, Fla. |
| Devin Gardner | 6-4 | 196 | Inkster | Inkster, Mich. |
| Austin Hinder | 6-4 | 180 | Steamboat Springs | Steamboat Springs, Colo. |
| Paul Jones | 6-3 | 223 | Sto-Rox | McKees Rocks, Pa. |
| Phillip Sims | 6-2 | 215 | Oscar F. Smith | Chesapeake, Va. |
| Connor Wood | 6-4 | 203 | Second Baptist | Houston |

## Running backs

| | HT. | WT. | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anthony Barr | 6-4 | 225 | Loyola | Los Angeles |
| Giovanni Bernard | 5-9 | 200 | St. Thomas Aquinas | Fort Lauderdale, Fla. |
| Mack Brown | 5-11 | 175 | Martin Luther King | Lithonia, Ga. |
| Brennan Clay | 6-0 | 190 | Scripps Ranch | San Diego |
| Eduardo Clements | 5-11 | 185 | Booker T. Washington | Miami |
| Michael Dyer | 5-10 | 195 | Little Rock Christian | Little Rock, Ark. |
| Ethan Grant | 5-10 | 175 | North Broward | Coconut Creek, Fla. |
| Jordon James | 5-10 | 185 | Corona | Corona, Calif. |
| Malcolm Jones | 6-0 | 210 | Oaks Christian | Westlake Village, Calif. |
| D.J. Morgan | 5-11 | 173 | William Howard Taft | Woodland Hills, Calif. |
| Silas Redd | 5-10 | 190 | King & Low-Heywood Thomas Sch. | Stamford, Conn. |
| Spencer Ware | 5-10 | 212 | Princeton | Cincinnati |
| Dontae Williams | 5-11 | 185 | Aldine | Houston |

## Wide receivers/tight ends

| | HT. | WT. | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Markeith Ambles | 6-3 | 185 | Henry County | McDonough, Ga. |
| Ross Apo | 6-2 | 190 | The Oakridge School | Arlington, Texas |
| Dillon Baxter | 6-0 | 205 | Mission Bay Senior | San Diego |
| Kadron Boone | 6-1 | 190 | Trinity Catholic | Ocala, Fla. |
| Martavis Bryant | 6-4 | 187 | T.L. Hanna | Anderson, S.C. |
| Mike Davis | 6-1 | 175 | Skyline | Dallas |
| Chris Dunkley | 5-11 | 169 | Royal Palm Beach | Royal Palm Beach, Fla. |
| Christian Green | 6-2 | 185 | Tampa Catholic | Tampa, Fla. |
| John Harris | 6-3 | 195 | Naaman Forest | Garland, Texas |
| Tai-ler Jones | 6-0 | 177 | Gainesville | Gainesville, Ga. |
| Marcus Lucas | 6-4 | 185 | Liberty Senior | Liberty, Mo. |
| Ivan McCartney | 6-1 | 160 | Miramar | Miramar, Fla. |
| Ted Meline | 6-2 | 170 | Booker T. Washington | Miami |
| Ricardo Miller | 6-2 | 205 | Dr. Phillips | Orlando, Fla. |
| Shakim Phillips | 6-2 | 192 | DePaul Catholic | Wayne, N.J. |
| Kyle Prater | 6-4 | 205 | Proviso West | Hillside, Ill. |
| Trovon Reed | 6-0 | 175 | Thibodaux | Thibodaux, La. |
| Kenny Stills | 6-2 | 180 | La Costa Canyon | Carlsbad, Calif. |
| Christian Thomas | 6-3 | 235 | Highland | Palmdale, Calif. |
| Jaylen Watkins | 6-0 | 175 | Cape Coral | Cape Coral, Fla. |
| Darius White | 6-4 | 195 | Dunbar | Fort Worth, Texas |
| DeAndrew White | 5-11 | 165 | North Shore | Galena Park, Texas |
| Robert Woods | 6-1 | 170 | Junipero Serra | Gardena, Calif. |

## Offensive linemen

| | HT. | WT. | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brent Benedict | 6-5 | 285 | Bolles | Jacksonville, Fla. |
| Seth Betancourt | 6-7 | 290 | St. Joseph's | Philadelphia |

## Offensive linemen *(cont'd.)*

| | HT. | WT. | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Robert Crisp | 6-8 | 290 | Chapel Hill | Chapel Hill, N.C. |
| Nick Demien | 6-6 | 290 | Timberland | Wentzville, Mo. |
| James Hurst | 6-5 | 271 | Plainfield | Plainfield, Ind. |
| JaWuan James | 6-6 | 285 | North Gwinnett | Suwanee, Ga. |
| Matt James | 6-7 | 260 | St. Xavier | Cincinnati |
| Brandon Linder | 6-6 | 285 | St. Thomas Aquinas | Fort Lauderdale, Fla. |
| Jake Matthews | 6-5 | 270 | Lawrence E. Elkins | Missouri City, Texas |
| Andrew Norwell | 6-6 | 255 | Anderson | Cincinnati |
| Damien Robinson | 6-8 | 330 | Olive Branch | Olive Branch, Miss. |
| Andrew Rodriguez | 6-6 | 300 | Aurora | Aurora, Neb. |
| James Stone | 6-5 | 280 | Maplewood Comp | Nashville, Tenn. |

## Defensive linemen

| | HT. | WT. | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jordan Allen | 6-5 | 250 | West Monroe | West Monroe, La. |
| Kyle Baublitz | 6-4 | 255 | Central York | York, Pa. |
| Taylor Bible | 6-3 | 283 | Guyer | Denton, Texas |
| Gerald Christian | 6-3 | 220 | Dwyer | Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. |
| J.R. Ferguson | 6-4 | 255 | St. John's at Prospect Hall | Frederick, Md. |
| William Gholston | 6-7 | 245 | Southeastern | Detroit |
| Tavadis Glenn | 6-5 | 265 | Terry Parker | Jacksonville, Fla. |
| DaQuan Jones | 6-4 | 285 | Johnson City | Johnson City, N.Y. |
| Corey Lemonier | 6-4 | 225 | Hialeah | Hialeah, Fla. |
| Chris Martin | 6-4 | 222 | Bishop O'Dowd | Oakland, Calif. |
| Denzel McCoy | 6-4 | 275 | Northview | Duluth, Ga. |
| Owamagbe Odighizuwa | 6-3 | 235 | David Douglas | Portland, Ore. |
| Aramide Olaniyan | 6-2 | 195 | Woodberry Forest | Woodberry Forest, Va. |
| Ronald Powell | 6-4 | 250 | Rancho Verde | Moreno Valley, Calif. |
| Garrison Smith | 6-4 | 259 | Douglass | Atlanta |
| Jacques Smith | 6-2 | 235 | Ooltewah | Ooltewah, Tenn. |
| Curtis White | 6-5 | 240 | Henry D. Sheldon | Eugene, Ore. |
| Brandon Willis | 6-4 | 255 | James F. Byrnes | Duncan, S.C. |
| Reggie Wilson | 6-3 | 238 | Haltom | Haltom City, Texas |

## Linebackers

| | HT. | WT. | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| V.J. Fehoko | 6-0 | 225 | Farrington | Honolulu |
| Nick Forbes | 6-1 | 220 | Gov. Thomas Johnson | Frederick, Md. |
| Khairi Fortt | 6-3 | 221 | Stamford | Stamford, Conn. |
| Jordan Hicks | 6-2 | 200 | Lakota West | West Chester, Ohio |
| Mike Hull | 6-1 | 204 | Canon-McMillan | Canonsburg, Pa. |
| Tony Jefferson | 6-0 | 191 | Eastlake | Chula Vista, Calif. |
| Jeff Luc | 6-1 | 240 | Treasure Coast | Port St. Lucie, Fla. |
| Justin Parker | 6-2 | 210 | Beaufort | Beaufort, S.C. |
| Dakota Royer | 6-3 | 220 | Manheim Central | Manheim, Pa. |

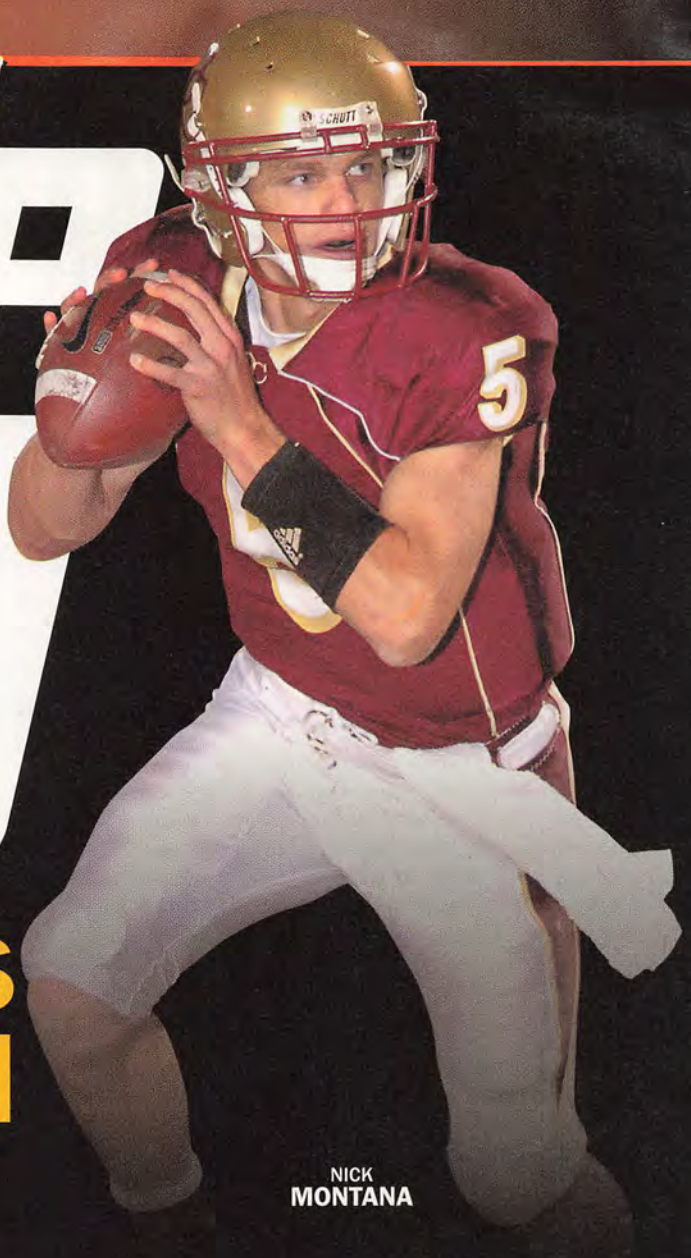
## Defensive backs

| | HT. | WT. | HIGH SCHOOL | HOMETOWN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Keenan Allen | 6-3 | 195 | Northern Guilford | Greensboro, N.C. |
| Ahmad Dixon | 6-1 | 190 | Midway | Waco, Texas |
| Demar Dorsey | 6-1 | 175 | Boyd Anderson | Lauderdale Lakes, Fla. |
| Jonathan Dowling | 6-4 | 185 | Southeast | Bradenton, Fla. |
| Victor Hampton | 5-11 | 175 | Independence | Charlotte, N.C. |
| DeAndre Hopkins | 6-2 | 174 | D.W. Daniel | Central, S.C. |
| DeMarcus Milliner | 6-1 | 175 | Stanhope Elmore | Millbrook, Ala. |
| Terrence Mitchell | 5-11 | 160 | Hillsborough | Tampa, Fla. |
| Alec Ogletree | 6-3 | 205 | Newnan | Newnan, Ga. |
| Sean Parker | 5-10 | 175 | Nathaniel Narbonne | Harbor City, Calif. |
| Eric Reid | 6-3 | 200 | Dutchtown | Geismar, La. |
| Marvin Robinson | 6-1 | 204 | Lake Region | Eagle Lake, Fla. |
| Jarrick Williams | 6-2 | 205 | Mattie T. Blount | Prichard, Ala. |

Sporting News

# TOP 10

# PREP TEAMS TO WATCH



NICK MONTANA

By Brian McLaughlin, *Sporting News*

(listed alphabetically by state)

## Oaks Christian

» (Westlake Village, Calif.) 14-0 in '08

No opponent came within 21 points of the Lions last year, and a majority of the talent in the program is back for another run in 2009. Quarterback Nick Montana (6-2, 180 pounds), son of NFL great Joe Montana, returns for his second season as a starter after throwing for 2,404 yards and 33 touchdowns in 2008. Offensive lineman Erik Kohler (6-4, 265) has his pick of Pac-10 schools, while running back Malcolm Jones (6-0, 210), defensive tackle Cassius Marsh (6-3, 275, California commitment) and linebacker Zac Stout (6-1, 215) will all be playing at big-time programs next year.

## St. Thomas Aquinas

» (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.) 15-0

This program may be destined for another Class 5A state playoff run that could be topped with a state championship. And the Raiders will likely battle for a mythical national title as well. Cornerback Lamarcus Joyner (5-8, 165) is a speedster in the defensive backfield, while running back Giovanni Bernard (5-9, 200) and lineman Brandon Linder (6-6, 280) are just two of the nearly dozen Raiders with scholarship offers.

## Pahokee

» (Fla.) 12-3

The small-school Blue Devils aren't afraid to play some of the nation's top programs, as they proved last year by taking on James F. Byrnes (Duncan, S.C.) and traveling to Olive Branch (Miss.), a Class 5A program. Pahokee has a good chunk of its 2008 Class 2B state title team back on the roster for the new season. Receiver De'Joshua Johnson (5-11, 160) leads a lengthy list of prospects that already have scholarship offers. Defensive end Richard Ash (6-4, 240) will also choose from multiple Division I schools.

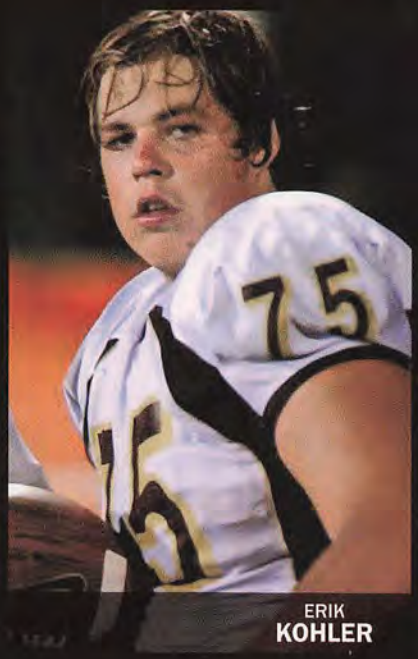
## Dwyer

» (Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.) 12-2

The Panthers are 22-5 the past two seasons, and last year they lost only to perennial Florida powerhouse Glades Central (Belle Glade, Fla.) and then eventual Class 4A state champion Plant High (Tampa, Fla.) in the state playoffs. Returning this season is the best player from last year's team, Florida commitment Matt Elam (6-0, 205), who can play just about any skill position. Linebacker Gerald Christian (6-3, 220) is another talent who is considering the Gators but could sign with any

JOSE LUIS / CAL SPORT MEDIA

LAMARCUS JOYNER



ERIK KOHLER

(L TO R): COURTESY RIVALS; COURTESY SANDI PETERSON

school in the country. He racked up 87 tackles last year.

### Lowndes County
» (Valdosta, Ga.) 12-1

Georgia prep football boats some serious competition, so there are no guarantees, but Lowndes County looks to have one of the better programs in the state this year. The Vikings began the season 12-0 before falling to Grayson (Loganville, Ga.) in the Class 5A state playoffs. Lowndes is led by offensive tackle Ed Christian (6-5, 280), who has committed to Florida State.

### St. Ignatius
» (Cleveland) 14-1

The Wildcats rattled off 14 wins in a row to finish the 2008 season as state champions, along the way beating cross-city rival Glenville by one point in the state playoffs after falling to the Tarblooders by three in the season opener. The top player for the Wildcats is linebacker Scott McVey (5-11, 215), whom Ohio State would like to get a commitment from soon. Also, pro-style quarterback Mark Myers (6-5, 210) has the size that could catch the attention of scouts this summer.

### James F. Byrnes
» (Spartanburg, S.C.) 14-1

The Rebels could be labeled the best high school team in the country this year. They are loaded and ready for a state title run. After falling to Dorman (Spartanburg, S.C.) in the 2008 regular season, Byrnes vindicated its loss in the playoffs and went on to win the Class 4A state title. This year, *Sporting News*' No. 1 prospect of 2010, running back Marcus Lattimore (5-11, 210), leads the Rebels after rushing for 2,303 yards and 30 touchdowns last fall. Defensive linemen Corey Miller (6-4, 230) and Brandon Willis (6-4, 250) are also on the radar of major programs.

### Allen
» (Texas) 15-1

A September loss to Trinity (Euless, Texas) was avenged in the Texas state playoffs, as the Eagles went on to claim the Class 5A championship, beating Hightower (Missouri City, Texas) 21-14. The Eagles return two D-I prospects in offensive tackle Cedric Ogbuehi (6-5, 270, committed to Texas A&M) and quarterback Matt Brown (6-0, 175), who has attracted scholarship offers from the Big 12 and Pac-10. Brown has thrown for 4,393 yards and 52 touchdowns the past two seasons while rushing for 2,059 yards.

### Cedar Hill
» (Texas) 12-2

The Longhorns weren't too shabby last year, falling by only 10 points in the fourth round of the state playoffs to Wylie, Texas. This season, the program is stacked for a run at a state title. Leading the way is linebacker Aaron Benson (6-2, 205), who racked up 132 tackles and eight sacks as a junior. He has committed to Texas, while teammate Ben Malena (5-9, 210), a running back, has given his word to Texas A&M. Malena rushed for 2,202 yards and 35 touchdowns last season. Several other Longhorns will likely be signing D-I scholarships in February.

### Skyline
» (Sammamish, Wash.) 14-0

The Spartans have won two state championships in a row with *Sporting News*' top-ranked quarterback Jake Heaps (6-2, 195), who's back for his senior year. The problem is, Heaps' top receiving threat, Gino Simone, heads to Washington State this year. Despite the loss, Heaps already has proven he can lead this team to victory with his strong arm.

## THE NEXT 20 PROGRAMS
(listed alphabetically by state)

- **Prattville** (Ala.) 13-1
- **De La Salle** (Concord, Calif.) 12-2
- **Notre Dame** (Sherman Oaks, Calif.) 11-1
- **Poly** (Long Beach, Calif.) 14-1
- **St. Bonaventure** (Ventura, Calif.) 14-1
- **Bolles** (Jacksonville, Fla.) 14-0
- **Miami Central** 8-4
- **Miami Northwestern** 13-3
- **Buford** (Ga.) 15-0
- **Bishop Carroll** (Wichita, Kan.) 9-2
- **Curtis** (River Ridge, La.) 14-1
- **Muskegon** (Mich.) 14-0
- **Independence** (Charlotte, N.C.) 13-1
- **Elder** (Cincinnati) 13-2
- **Glenville** (Cleveland) 11-1
- **Liberty** (Bethlehem, Pa.) 15-1
- **South Pointe** (Rock Hill, S.C.) 15-0
- **Memphis University** (Memphis, Tenn.) 13-0
- **Dunbar** (Fort Worth, Texas) 9-2
- **Skyline** (Dallas) 12-2

# '08 FBS NCAA STATISTICS

COURTESY OF THE NCAA

—compiled by Tyler Nelson

## PASSING EFFICIENCY (MINIMUM OF 15 ATTEMPTS PER GAME)

| | YEAR | G | ATT | CMP | PCT | INT | INT% | YDS | YDS/ATT | TD | PCT | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sam Bradford, Oklahoma | SO | 14 | 483 | 328 | 67.91 | 8 | 1.66 | 4720 | 9.77 | 50 | 10.35 | 180.8 |
| David Johnson, Tulsa | SR | 14 | 400 | 258 | 64.50 | 18 | 4.50 | 4059 | 10.15 | 46 | 11.50 | 178.7 |
| Colt McCoy, Texas | JR | 13 | 433 | 332 | 76.67 | 8 | 1.85 | 3859 | 8.91 | 34 | 7.85 | 173.8 |
| Tim Tebow, Florida | JR | 14 | 298 | 192 | 64.43 | 4 | 1.34 | 2746 | 9.21 | 30 | 10.07 | 172.4 |
| Zac Robinson, Oklahoma State | JR | 13 | 314 | 204 | 64.97 | 10 | 3.18 | 3064 | 9.76 | 25 | 7.96 | 166.8 |
| Mark Sanchez, USC | JR | 13 | 366 | 241 | 65.85 | 10 | 2.73 | 3207 | 8.76 | 34 | 9.29 | 164.6 |
| Chase Clement, Rice | SR | 13 | 490 | 326 | 66.53 | 7 | 1.43 | 4119 | 8.41 | 44 | 8.98 | 163.9 |
| Graham Harrell, Texas Tech | SR | 13 | 626 | 442 | 70.61 | 9 | 1.44 | 5111 | 8.16 | 45 | 7.19 | 160.0 |
| Case Keenum, Houston | SO | 13 | 589 | 397 | 67.40 | 11 | 1.87 | 5020 | 8.52 | 44 | 7.47 | 159.9 |
| Chase Daniel, Missouri | SR | 14 | 528 | 385 | 72.92 | 18 | 3.41 | 4335 | 8.21 | 39 | 7.39 | 159.4 |
| Max Hall, BYU | JR | 13 | 477 | 330 | 69.18 | 14 | 2.94 | 3957 | 8.30 | 35 | 7.34 | 157.2 |
| Kellen Moore, Boise State | FR | 13 | 405 | 281 | 69.38 | 10 | 2.47 | 3486 | 8.61 | 25 | 6.17 | 157.1 |
| Nate Davis, Ball State | JR | 14 | 401 | 258 | 64.34 | 8 | 2.00 | 3591 | 8.96 | 26 | 6.48 | 157.0 |
| Joe Ganz, Nebraska | SR | 13 | 420 | 285 | 67.86 | 11 | 2.62 | 3568 | 8.50 | 25 | 5.95 | 153.6 |
| Matthew Stafford, Georgia | JR | 13 | 383 | 235 | 61.36 | 10 | 2.61 | 3459 | 9.03 | 25 | 6.53 | 153.5 |
| Brian Johnson, Utah | SR | 13 | 394 | 268 | 68.02 | 9 | 2.28 | 2972 | 7.54 | 27 | 6.85 | 149.4 |
| Todd Reesing, Kansas | JR | 13 | 495 | 329 | 66.46 | 13 | 2.63 | 3888 | 7.85 | 32 | 6.46 | 148.5 |
| Mike Teel, Rutgers | SR | 13 | 396 | 243 | 61.36 | 13 | 3.28 | 3418 | 8.63 | 25 | 6.31 | 148.1 |
| Adam DiMichele, Temple | SR | 9 | 231 | 134 | 58.01 | 6 | 2.60 | 1911 | 8.27 | 18 | 7.79 | 148.0 |
| Trevor Vittatoe, UTEP | SO | 12 | 418 | 246 | 58.85 | 9 | 2.15 | 3274 | 7.83 | 33 | 7.89 | 146.4 |
| Jevan Snead, Ole Miss | SO | 13 | 327 | 184 | 56.27 | 13 | 3.98 | 2762 | 8.45 | 26 | 7.95 | 145.5 |
| Willie Tuitama, Arizona | SR | 13 | 399 | 259 | 64.91 | 8 | 2.01 | 3088 | 7.74 | 23 | 5.76 | 144.9 |
| Dan LeFevour, Central Michigan | JR | 11 | 376 | 251 | 66.76 | 6 | 1.6 | 2784 | 7.4 | 21 | 5.59 | 144.2 |
| Tim Hiller, Western Michigan | JR | 13 | 522 | 339 | 64.94 | 10 | 1.92 | 3725 | 7.14 | 36 | 6.90 | 143.8 |
| Daryll Clark, Penn State | SR | 13 | 321 | 192 | 59.81 | 6 | 1.87 | 2592 | 8.07 | 19 | 5.92 | 143.4 |

## TOTAL OFFENSE

| | | | | RUSHING | | | PASSING | | TOTAL OFFENSE | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | YEAR | G | CAR | GAIN | LOSS | NET | ATT | YDS | PLAYS | YDS | YDS/PL | YDS/G |
| Case Keenum, Houston | SO | 13 | 76 | 410 | 189 | 221 | 589 | 5020 | 665 | 5241 | 7.88 | 403.2 |
| Graham Harrell, Texas Tech | SR | 13 | 41 | 113 | 128 | -15 | 626 | 5111 | 667 | 5096 | 7.64 | 392.0 |
| Chase Clement, Rice | SR | 13 | 154 | 942 | 249 | 693 | 490 | 4119 | 644 | 4812 | 7.47 | 370.2 |
| Sam Bradford, Oklahoma | SO | 14 | 42 | 140 | 93 | 47 | 483 | 4720 | 525 | 4767 | 9.08 | 340.5 |
| Colt McCoy, Texas | JR | 13 | 136 | 734 | 173 | 561 | 433 | 3859 | 569 | 4420 | 7.77 | 340.0 |
| Chase Daniel, Missouri | SR | 14 | 69 | 384 | 103 | 281 | 528 | 4335 | 597 | 4616 | 7.73 | 329.7 |
| Juice Williams, Illinois | JR | 12 | 175 | 923 | 204 | 719 | 381 | 3173 | 556 | 3892 | 7.00 | 324.3 |
| Todd Reesing, Kansas | JR | 13 | 126 | 489 | 265 | 224 | 495 | 3888 | 621 | 4112 | 6.62 | 316.3 |
| Max Hall, BYU | JR | 13 | 65 | 242 | 127 | 115 | 477 | 3957 | 542 | 4072 | 7.51 | 313.2 |
| Dan LeFevour, Central Michigan | JR | 11 | 168 | 763 | 171 | 592 | 376 | 2784 | 544 | 3376 | 6.21 | 306.9 |
| Colin Kaepernick, Nevada | SO | 13 | 161 | 1298 | 168 | 1130 | 383 | 2849 | 544 | 3979 | 7.31 | 306.1 |
| David Johnson, Tulsa | SR | 14 | 92 | 358 | 172 | 186 | 400 | 4059 | 492 | 4245 | 8.63 | 303.2 |
| Joe Ganz, Nebraska | SR | 13 | 92 | 417 | 159 | 258 | 420 | 3568 | 512 | 3826 | 7.47 | 294.3 |
| Tim Hiller, Western Michigan | JR | 13 | 38 | 122 | 120 | 2 | 522 | 3725 | 560 | 3727 | 6.66 | 286.7 |
| Joe Webb, UAB | JR | 12 | 198 | 1218 | 197 | 1021 | 353 | 2367 | 551 | 3388 | 6.15 | 282.3 |
| Austin Davis, Southern Miss | FR | 13 | 155 | 729 | 221 | 508 | 454 | 3128 | 609 | 3636 | 5.97 | 279.7 |
| Josh Freeman, Kansas State | JR | 12 | 107 | 538 | 134 | 404 | 382 | 2945 | 489 | 3349 | 6.85 | 279.1 |
| Zac Robinson, Oklahoma State | JR | 13 | 146 | 700 | 138 | 562 | 314 | 3064 | 460 | 3626 | 7.88 | 278.9 |
| Nate Davis, Ball State | JR | 14 | 66 | 410 | 98 | 312 | 401 | 3591 | 467 | 3903 | 8.36 | 278.8 |
| Trevor Vittatoe, UTEP | SO | 12 | 45 | 186 | 217 | -31 | 418 | 3274 | 463 | 3243 | 7.00 | 270.3 |
| Matt Grothe, South Florida | JR | 13 | 146 | 830 | 239 | 591 | 380 | 2911 | 526 | 3502 | 6.66 | 269.4 |
| Matthew Stafford, Georgia | JR | 13 | 55 | 189 | 149 | 40 | 383 | 3459 | 438 | 3499 | 7.99 | 269.2 |
| Austen Arnaud, Iowa State | SO | 12 | 109 | 511 | 110 | 401 | 401 | 2792 | 510 | 3193 | 6.26 | 266.1 |
| Kellen Moore, Boise State | FR | 13 | 38 | 84 | 114 | -30 | 405 | 3486 | 443 | 3456 | 7.80 | 265.8 |
| Julian Edelman, Kent State | SR | 12 | 215 | 1551 | 181 | 1370 | 275 | 1820 | 490 | 3190 | 6.51 | 265.8 |

## ALL-PURPOSE YARDAGE

| | YEAR | G | RUSH | REC | PR | KOR | PLAYS | YDS/PL | YDS | YDS/GM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jeremy Maclin, Missouri | SO | 14 | 293 | 1260 | 270 | 1010 | 207 | 13.69 | 2833 | 202.36 |
| Jahvid Best, California | SO | 12 | 1580 | 246 | 0 | 421 | 237 | 9.48 | 2247 | 187.25 |
| T.Y. Hilton, Florida International | FR | 12 | 43 | 1013 | 266 | 841 | 109 | 19.84 | 2163 | 180.25 |
| Antonio Brown, Central Michigan | SO | 13 | 116 | 998 | 410 | 791 | 171 | 13.54 | 2315 | 178.08 |
| Damaris Johnson, Tulsa | FR | 14 | 327 | 743 | 23 | 1382 | 154 | 16.07 | 2475 | 176.79 |
| Donald Brown, Connecticut | JR | 13 | 2083 | 125 | 0 | 0 | 388 | 5.69 | 2208 | 169.85 |
| Devin Moore, Wyoming | SR | 12 | 1301 | 40 | 0 | 667 | 294 | 6.83 | 2008 | 167.33 |
| DeMarco Murray, Oklahoma | SO | 13 | 1002 | 395 | 0 | 774 | 238 | 9.12 | 2171 | 167.00 |
| Darius Marshall, Marshall | SO | 12 | 1099 | 98 | 0 | 790 | 270 | 7.36 | 1987 | 165.58 |
| Josh Smith, Colorado | SO | 12 | 32 | 387 | 292 | 1276 | 119 | 16.70 | 1987 | 165.58 |
| Mardy Gilyard, Cincinnati | SR | 14 | 10 | 1276 | 0 | 994 | 119 | 19.16 | 2280 | 162.86 |
| Austin Collie, BYU | JR | 13 | 77 | 1538 | 2 | 495 | 135 | 15.64 | 2112 | 162.46 |
| Brandon West, Western Michigan | JR | 12 | 1026 | 280 | 0 | 637 | 270 | 7.20 | 1943 | 161.92 |
| Jason Chery, La.-Lafayette | SR | 12 | 312 | 656 | 0 | 953 | 115 | 16.70 | 1921 | 160.08 |
| Javon Ringer, Michigan State | SR | 13 | 1637 | 190 | 0 | 224 | 429 | 4.78 | 2051 | 157.77 |
| Terrence Austin, UCLA | JR | 12 | 90 | 460 | 219 | 1109 | 135 | 13.91 | 1878 | 156.50 |
| Phillip Livas, Louisiana Tech | SO | 13 | 337 | 607 | 245 | 826 | 121 | 16.65 | 2015 | 155.00 |
| James Rodgers, Oregon State | SO | 12 | 408 | 607 | 0 | 818 | 130 | 14.10 | 1833 | 152.75 |
| Chris Williams, New Mexico State | SR | 12 | 0 | 1271 | 105 | 409 | 110 | 16.23 | 1785 | 148.75 |
| MiQuale Lewis, Ball State | JR | 14 | 1736 | 325 | 0 | 17 | 358 | 5.80 | 2078 | 148.43 |
| C.J. Spiller, Clemson | JR | 12 | 629 | 436 | 189 | 516 | 187 | 9.47 | 1770 | 147.50 |
| Shonn Greene, Iowa | JR | 13 | 1850 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 315 | 6.03 | 1899 | 146.08 |
| Dez Bryant, Oklahoma State | SO | 13 | 0 | 1480 | 305 | 100 | 108 | 17.45 | 1885 | 145.00 |
| Brandon Banks, Kansas State | JR | 12 | 126 | 1049 | 58 | 498 | 97 | 17.85 | 1731 | 144.25 |
| Marcus Thigpen, Indiana | SR | 12 | 631 | 235 | 0 | 853 | 145 | 11.86 | 1719 | 143.25 |

## RECEPTIONS PER GAME

| | YEAR | G | REC | YDS | TD | REC/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Casey Fitzgerald, North Texas | SR | 12 | 113 | 1119 | 6 | 9.42 |
| James Casey, Rice | SO | 13 | 111 | 1329 | 13 | 8.54 |
| Austin Collie, BYU | JR | 13 | 106 | 1538 | 15 | 8.15 |
| Jamarko Simmons, Western Michigan | SR | 13 | 104 | 1276 | 7 | 8.00 |
| Chase Coffman, Missouri | SR | 12 | 90 | 987 | 10 | 7.50 |
| Michael Crabtree, Texas Tech | SO | 13 | 97 | 1165 | 19 | 7.46 |
| Kerry Meier, Kansas | JR | 13 | 97 | 1045 | 8 | 7.46 |
| Naaman Roosevelt, Buffalo | JR | 14 | 104 | 1402 | 13 | 7.43 |
| Ryan Wolfe, UNLV | JR | 12 | 88 | 1040 | 6 | 7.33 |
| Jacory Stone, Eastern Michigan | JR | 12 | 88 | 943 | 3 | 7.33 |
| Jeremy Maclin, Missouri | SO | 14 | 102 | 1260 | 13 | 7.29 |
| Kenny Britt, Rutgers | JR | 12 | 87 | 1371 | 7 | 7.25 |
| Chris Williams, New Mexico State | SR | 12 | 86 | 1271 | 9 | 7.17 |
| Antonio Brown, Central Michigan | SO | 13 | 93 | 998 | 7 | 7.15 |
| Dezmon Briscoe, Kansas | SO | 13 | 92 | 1407 | 15 | 7.08 |
| Quan Cosby, Texas | SR | 13 | 92 | 1123 | 10 | 7.08 |
| Eric Decker, Minnesota | JR | 12 | 84 | 1074 | 7 | 7.00 |
| Jordan Shipley, Texas | SR | 13 | 89 | 1060 | 11 | 6.85 |
| Emmanuel Sanders, SMU | JR | 10 | 67 | 958 | 9 | 6.70 |
| Dez Bryant, Oklahoma State | SO | 13 | 87 | 1480 | 19 | 6.69 |
| Jarett Dillard, Rice | SR | 13 | 87 | 1310 | 20 | 6.69 |

## INTERCEPTIONS PER GAME

| | YEAR | G | NO | YDS | TD | INT/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Elbert Mack, Troy | SR | 12 | 8 | 48 | 1 | 0.67 |
| DeAngelo Smith, Cincinnati | JR | 13 | 8 | 82 | 1 | 0.62 |
| Alphonso Smith, Wake Forest | JR | 13 | 8 | 166 | 3 | 0.62 |
| Robert Vaughn, Connecticut | SO | 12 | 7 | 112 | 0 | 0.58 |
| P.J. Mahone, Bowling Green | SO | 12 | 7 | 220 | 1 | 0.58 |
| Reggie Corner, Akron | SR | 12 | 7 | 142 | 1 | 0.58 |
| William Moore, Missouri | JR | 14 | 8 | 61 | 1 | 0.57 |
| Jamie Silva, Boston College | SR | 14 | 8 | 147 | 1 | 0.57 |
| Tavious Polo, Florida Atlantic | FR | 13 | 7 | 17 | 0 | 0.54 |
| Jairus Byrd, Oregon | SO | 13 | 7 | 31 | 0 | 0.54 |
| Shane Carter, Wisconsin | SO | 13 | 7 | 92 | 0 | 0.54 |
| Tyrell Johnson, Arkansas State | SR | 12 | 6 | 142 | 1 | 0.50 |
| Patrick Robinson, Florida State | SO | 12 | 6 | 87 | 0 | 0.50 |
| Carson Bird, Air Force | SR | 12 | 6 | 10 | 0 | 0.50 |
| D.J. Moore, Vanderbilt | SO | 12 | 6 | 53 | 1 | 0.50 |
| Christopher Owens, San Jose State | JR | 12 | 6 | 26 | 0 | 0.50 |
| Ryan Downard, Eastern Michigan | FR | 12 | 6 | 15 | 0 | 0.50 |
| Trae Williams, South Florida | SR | 13 | 6 | 164 | 3 | 0.46 |
| Mike Mickens, Cincinnati | JR | 13 | 6 | 136 | 2 | 0.46 |
| Brandon Sumrall, Southern Miss | SR | 13 | 6 | 101 | 1 | 0.46 |
| Troy Nolan, Arizona State | JR | 13 | 6 | 129 | 2 | 0.46 |
| Rashad Johnson, Alabama | SO | 13 | 6 | 64 | 0 | 0.46 |
| Tracy Porter, Indiana | SR | 13 | 6 | 137 | 0 | 0.46 |

## SCORING

| | YEAR | G | TD | XP | FG | PTS | PT/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Javon Ringer, Michigan State | SR | 13 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 132 | 10.15 |
| LeSean McCoy, Pittsburgh | SO | 13 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 126 | 9.69 |
| Dez Bryant, Oklahoma State | SO | 13 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 126 | 9.69 |
| Graham Gano, Florida State | SR | 11 | 0 | 33 | 24 | 105 | 9.55 |
| Tyrell Fenroy, La.-Lafayette | SR | 12 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 114 | 9.50 |
| Jeff Wolfert, Missouri | SR | 14 | 0 | 73 | 20 | 133 | 9.50 |
| MiQuale Lewis, Ball State | JR | 14 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 132 | 9.43 |
| Louie Sakoda, Utah | SR | 13 | 0 | 56 | 22 | 122 | 9.38 |
| Jarett Dillard, Rice | SR | 13 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 120 | 9.23 |
| Kevin Kelly, Penn State | SR | 13 | 0 | 60 | 20 | 120 | 9.23 |
| Shonn Greene, Iowa | JR | 13 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 120 | 9.23 |
| Dennis Kennedy, Akron | SR | 12 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 110 | 9.17 |
| Chris Brown, Oklahoma | JR | 14 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 126 | 9.00 |
| James Casey, Rice | SO | 13 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 114 | 8.77 |
| Michael Crabtree, Texas Tech | SO | 13 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 114 | 8.77 |
| Jose Martinez, UTEP | SR | 12 | 0 | 45 | 20 | 105 | 8.75 |
| Phillip Tanner, Middle Tennessee | JR | 12 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 102 | 8.50 |
| Kory Sheets, Purdue | SR | 12 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 102 | 8.50 |
| James Starks, Buffalo | JR | 12 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 102 | 8.50 |
| Percy Harvin, Florida | JR | 12 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 102 | 8.50 |

## RUSHING

| | YEAR | G | CAR | YDS | AVG | TD | YDS/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Donald Brown, Connecticut | JR | 13 | 367 | 2083 | 5.68 | 18 | 160.23 |
| Shonn Greene, Iowa | JR | 13 | 307 | 1850 | 6.03 | 20 | 142.31 |
| Jahvid Best, California | SO | 12 | 194 | 1580 | 8.14 | 15 | 131.67 |
| Javon Ringer, Michigan State | SR | 13 | 390 | 1637 | 4.20 | 22 | 125.92 |
| MiQuale Lewis, Ball State | JR | 14 | 322 | 1736 | 5.39 | 22 | 124.00 |
| Chris Wells, Ohio State | JR | 10 | 207 | 1197 | 5.78 | 8 | 119.70 |
| Kendall Hunter, Oklahoma State | SO | 13 | 241 | 1555 | 6.45 | 16 | 119.62 |
| Vai Taua, Nevada | SO | 13 | 236 | 1521 | 6.44 | 15 | 117.00 |
| Tyrell Fenroy, La.-Lafayette | SR | 12 | 226 | 1375 | 6.08 | 19 | 114.58 |
| LeSean McCoy, Pittsburgh | SO | 13 | 308 | 1488 | 4.83 | 21 | 114.46 |
| Julian Edelman, Kent State | SR | 12 | 215 | 1370 | 6.37 | 13 | 114.17 |
| Jacquizz Rodgers, Oregon State | FR | 11 | 259 | 1253 | 4.84 | 11 | 113.91 |
| Gartrell Johnson, Colorado State | SR | 13 | 278 | 1476 | 5.31 | 12 | 113.54 |
| Collin Mooney, Army | SR | 12 | 231 | 1339 | 5.80 | 8 | 111.58 |
| James Starks, Buffalo | JR | 12 | 272 | 1333 | 4.90 | 16 | 111.08 |
| Dennis Kennedy, Akron | SR | 12 | 239 | 1321 | 5.53 | 17 | 110.08 |
| Damion Fletcher, Southern Miss | JR | 12 | 219 | 1313 | 6.00 | 10 | 109.42 |
| Tarrion Adams, Tulsa | SR | 14 | 247 | 1523 | 6.17 | 14 | 108.79 |
| Devin Moore, Wyoming | SR | 12 | 249 | 1301 | 5.22 | 7 | 108.42 |
| Knowshon Moreno, Georgia | SO | 13 | 250 | 1400 | 5.60 | 16 | 107.69 |

## PUNT RETURNS (MINIMUM OF 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

| | YEAR | NO | YDS | TD | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Antonio Brown, Central Michigan | SO | 20 | 410 | 1 | 20.50 |
| Ian Clark, New Mexico | JR | 12 | 236 | 0 | 19.67 |
| Dez Bryant, Oklahoma State | SO | 17 | 305 | 2 | 17.94 |
| Kyle Williams, Arizona State | JR | 14 | 238 | 0 | 17.00 |
| Robert Dunn, Auburn | SR | 15 | 240 | 1 | 16.00 |
| Javier Arenas, Alabama | JR | 41 | 650 | 3 | 15.85 |
| Phillip Livas, Louisiana Tech | SO | 16 | 245 | 2 | 15.31 |
| Ray Small, Ohio State | JR | 24 | 364 | 1 | 15.17 |
| T.Y. Hilton, Florida International | FR | 18 | 266 | 1 | 14.78 |
| Joe Burnett, UCF | SR | 26 | 378 | 0 | 14.54 |
| D.J. Moore, Vanderbilt | JR | 17 | 244 | 0 | 14.35 |
| Kyle Wilson, Boise State | JR | 33 | 470 | 3 | 14.24 |
| Jeremy Kerley, TCU | SO | 25 | 348 | 0 | 13.92 |
| Brandon James, Florida | JR | 37 | 510 | 2 | 13.78 |
| Michael Thomas, Arizona | SR | 29 | 392 | 2 | 13.52 |
| Trindon Holliday, LSU | JR | 21 | 279 | 1 | 13.29 |
| Nate Swift, Nebraska | SR | 23 | 296 | 1 | 12.87 |
| Reggie Rembert, Air Force | SO | 17 | 217 | 0 | 12.76 |
| B.J. Hill, Ball State | SR | 18 | 229 | 0 | 12.72 |
| Jairus Byrd, Oregon | JR | 26 | 320 | 1 | 12.31 |

## PUNTING (MINIMUM OF 3.6 PUNTS PER GAME)

| | YEAR | G | NO | YDS | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T.J. Conley, Idaho | SR | 12 | 58 | 2751 | 47.43 |
| Ross Thevenot, Tulane | JR | 12 | 45 | 2061 | 45.80 |
| Justin Brantly, Texas A&M | SR | 12 | 51 | 2331 | 45.71 |
| Jacob Richardson, Miami (Ohio) | SR | 12 | 52 | 2360 | 45.38 |
| Tim Masthay, Kentucky | SR | 13 | 53 | 2397 | 45.23 |
| Aaron Perez, UCLA | SR | 12 | 79 | 3571 | 45.20 |
| Kevin Huber, Cincinnati | SR | 14 | 60 | 2697 | 44.95 |
| Pat McAfee, West Virginia | SR | 13 | 62 | 2772 | 44.71 |
| Derek Epperson, Baylor | SO | 12 | 49 | 2169 | 44.27 |
| Anthony Hartz, Colorado State | JR | 11 | 44 | 1940 | 44.09 |
| Brad Langley, Nevada | SO | 10 | 42 | 1850 | 44.05 |
| Brian Mimbs, Georgia | SR | 13 | 47 | 2068 | 44.00 |
| Keenyn Crier, Arizona | SO | 13 | 48 | 2109 | 43.94 |
| Matt Dodge, East Carolina | JR | 14 | 73 | 3207 | 43.93 |
| Rob Long, Syracuse | SO | 12 | 66 | 2898 | 43.91 |
| Swayze Waters, UAB | SR | 12 | 55 | 2396 | 43.56 |
| Jeremy Davis, Arkansas | SR | 12 | 57 | 2460 | 43.16 |
| Bryan Anger, California | FR | 13 | 71 | 3063 | 43.14 |
| Kyle Petersen, UTEP | SO | 11 | 46 | 1978 | 43.00 |
| Zoltan Mesko, Michigan | JR | 12 | 80 | 3436 | 42.95 |

## FIELD GOALS

| | YEAR | G | FGA | FGM | PCT | FG/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Graham Gano, Florida State | SR | 11 | 26 | 24 | 0.923 | 2.18 |
| Ben Hartman, East Carolina | JR | 11 | 31 | 21 | 0.677 | 1.91 |
| Ryan Harrison, Air Force | SR | 13 | 29 | 24 | 0.828 | 1.85 |
| Louie Sakoda, Utah | SR | 13 | 24 | 22 | 0.917 | 1.69 |
| Brett Swenson, Michigan State | JR | 13 | 28 | 22 | 0.786 | 1.69 |
| Nathan Parseghian, Miami (Ohio) | SR | 12 | 23 | 20 | 0.870 | 1.67 |
| Jose Martinez, UTEP | SR | 12 | 27 | 20 | 0.741 | 1.67 |
| Dustin Keys, Virginia Tech | SR | 14 | 29 | 23 | 0.793 | 1.64 |
| Kai Forbath, UCLA | SO | 12 | 22 | 19 | 0.864 | 1.58 |
| Swayze Waters, UAB | SR | 12 | 24 | 19 | 0.792 | 1.58 |
| Thomas Weber, Arizona State | SO | 12 | 25 | 19 | 0.760 | 1.58 |
| Josh Arauco, Arkansas State | JR | 11 | 19 | 17 | 0.895 | 1.55 |
| Kevin Kelly, Penn State | SR | 13 | 24 | 20 | 0.833 | 1.54 |
| Conor Lee, Pittsburgh | SR | 13 | 24 | 20 | 0.833 | 1.54 |
| Philip Welch, Wisconsin | FR | 13 | 24 | 20 | 0.833 | 1.54 |
| Amado Villarreal, Northwestern | SR | 13 | 25 | 20 | 0.800 | 1.54 |
| Sam Glusman, Troy | JR | 13 | 29 | 20 | 0.690 | 1.54 |
| Ryan Succop, South Carolina | SR | 13 | 30 | 20 | 0.667 | 1.54 |
| James Aho, New Mexico | FR | 12 | 24 | 18 | 0.750 | 1.50 |
| Igor Iveljic, Akron | SO | 12 | 28 | 18 | 0.643 | 1.50 |

## KICKOFF RETURNS (MINIMUM OF 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

| | YEAR | NO | YDS | TD | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Travis Shelton, Temple | SR | 23 | 720 | 1 | 31.30 |
| Michael Ray Garvin, Florida State | SR | 22 | 662 | 1 | 30.09 |
| Perrish Cox, Oklahoma State | JR | 30 | 895 | 2 | 29.83 |
| A.J. Jefferson, Fresno State | JR | 31 | 908 | 1 | 29.29 |
| Aaron Brown, TCU | SR | 18 | 526 | 1 | 29.22 |
| Bryan Williams, Akron | SR | 21 | 609 | 0 | 29.00 |
| Joe Burnett, UCF | SR | 26 | 745 | 2 | 28.65 |
| L.J. Flintall, Ohio | JR | 13 | 368 | 1 | 28.31 |
| Brandon Banks, Kansas State | JR | 18 | 498 | 1 | 27.67 |
| DeMarco Murray, Oklahoma | SO | 28 | 774 | 0 | 27.64 |
| Mardy Gilyard, Cincinnati | SR | 36 | 994 | 2 | 27.61 |
| Austin Collie, BYU | JR | 18 | 495 | 0 | 27.50 |
| Tristan Davis, Auburn | SR | 24 | 657 | 2 | 27.38 |
| C.J. Spiller, Clemson | JR | 19 | 516 | 1 | 27.16 |
| Chris Garrett, Ohio | JR | 23 | 618 | 1 | 26.87 |
| Brandon Rutley, San Jose State | FR | 28 | 748 | 0 | 26.71 |
| Dontavia Bogan, South Florida | SO | 29 | 770 | 0 | 26.55 |
| Malcolm Lane, Hawaii | JR | 24 | 635 | 0 | 26.46 |
| Leonard Johnson, Iowa State | FR | 40 | 1055 | 0 | 26.38 |
| Darius Marshall, Marshall | SO | 30 | 790 | 0 | 26.33 |

## RUSHING OFFENSE

| | G | CAR | YDS | AVG | TD | YDS/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Navy | 13 | 715 | 3801 | 5.32 | 32 | 292.38 |
| Oregon | 13 | 585 | 3641 | 6.22 | 47 | 280.08 |
| Nevada | 13 | 593 | 3611 | 6.09 | 39 | 277.77 |
| Georgia Tech | 13 | 640 | 3552 | 5.55 | 32 | 273.23 |
| Tulsa | 14 | 674 | 3752 | 5.57 | 40 | 268.00 |
| Air Force | 13 | 777 | 3470 | 4.47 | 27 | 266.92 |
| La.-Lafayette | 12 | 533 | 3164 | 5.94 | 32 | 263.67 |
| Oklahoma State | 13 | 582 | 3191 | 5.48 | 38 | 245.46 |
| Army | 12 | 635 | 2897 | 4.56 | 17 | 241.42 |
| Florida | 14 | 545 | 3236 | 5.94 | 42 | 231.14 |
| Kent State | 12 | 527 | 2767 | 5.25 | 27 | 230.58 |
| TCU | 13 | 642 | 2863 | 4.46 | 39 | 220.23 |
| Connecticut | 13 | 556 | 2813 | 5.06 | 27 | 216.38 |
| Wisconsin | 13 | 567 | 2745 | 4.84 | 31 | 211.15 |
| West Virginia | 13 | 517 | 2729 | 5.28 | 15 | 209.92 |
| New Mexico | 12 | 540 | 2499 | 4.63 | 23 | 208.25 |
| Penn State | 13 | 511 | 2676 | 5.24 | 36 | 205.85 |
| Arkansas State | 12 | 488 | 2440 | 5.00 | 19 | 203.33 |
| Stanford | 12 | 490 | 2395 | 4.89 | 26 | 199.58 |
| Oklahoma | 14 | 589 | 2779 | 4.72 | 45 | 198.50 |

## RUSHING DEFENSE

| | G | CAR | YDS | AVG | TD | YDS/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TCU | 13 | 355 | 612 | 1.72 | 9 | 47.1 |
| Alabama | 14 | 391 | 1038 | 2.65 | 5 | 74.1 |
| Texas | 13 | 356 | 1086 | 3.05 | 8 | 83.5 |
| Ole Miss | 13 | 411 | 1112 | 2.71 | 9 | 85.5 |
| USC | 13 | 416 | 1136 | 2.73 | 8 | 87.4 |
| Nevada | 13 | 377 | 1152 | 3.06 | 17 | 88.6 |
| Boston College | 14 | 454 | 1277 | 2.81 | 14 | 91.2 |
| Penn State | 13 | 430 | 1212 | 2.82 | 12 | 93.2 |
| Iowa | 13 | 397 | 1222 | 3.08 | 7 | 94.0 |
| South Florida | 13 | 436 | 1238 | 2.84 | 12 | 95.2 |
| Utah | 13 | 415 | 1289 | 3.11 | 10 | 99.2 |
| Tennessee | 12 | 444 | 1237 | 2.79 | 6 | 103.1 |
| Louisiana Tech | 13 | 435 | 1350 | 3.10 | 12 | 103.8 |
| Virginia Tech | 14 | 451 | 1462 | 3.24 | 12 | 104.4 |
| Florida | 14 | 440 | 1476 | 3.35 | 9 | 105.4 |
| Connecticut | 13 | 423 | 1427 | 3.37 | 16 | 109.8 |
| LSU | 13 | 421 | 1432 | 3.40 | 17 | 110.2 |
| Ohio State | 13 | 406 | 1433 | 3.53 | 7 | 110.2 |
| Cincinnati | 14 | 481 | 1610 | 3.35 | 13 | 115.0 |
| Oklahoma | 14 | 469 | 1627 | 3.47 | 19 | 116.2 |

## TOTAL OFFENSE

| | G | PLAYS | YDS | AVG | TD | YDS/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tulsa | 14 | 1097 | 7978 | 7.27 | 90 | 569.86 |
| Houston | 13 | 1016 | 7316 | 7.20 | 71 | 562.77 |
| Oklahoma | 14 | 1106 | 7670 | 6.93 | 99 | 547.86 |
| Texas Tech | 13 | 979 | 6903 | 7.05 | 79 | 531.00 |
| Nevada | 13 | 1011 | 6611 | 6.54 | 64 | 508.54 |
| Oklahoma State | 13 | 908 | 6340 | 6.98 | 69 | 487.69 |
| Oregon | 13 | 959 | 6303 | 6.57 | 71 | 484.85 |
| Missouri | 14 | 982 | 6778 | 6.90 | 76 | 484.14 |
| Texas | 13 | 955 | 6185 | 6.48 | 74 | 475.77 |
| Rice | 13 | 965 | 6122 | 6.34 | 74 | 470.92 |
| USC | 13 | 891 | 5911 | 6.63 | 66 | 454.69 |
| Nebraska | 13 | 919 | 5860 | 6.38 | 58 | 450.77 |
| La.-Lafayette | 12 | 821 | 5390 | 6.57 | 54 | 449.17 |
| Penn State | 13 | 894 | 5836 | 6.53 | 63 | 448.92 |
| Florida | 14 | 874 | 6231 | 7.13 | 82 | 445.07 |
| BYU | 13 | 917 | 5782 | 6.31 | 59 | 444.77 |
| Ball State | 14 | 925 | 6195 | 6.70 | 63 | 442.50 |
| Boise State | 13 | 887 | 5731 | 6.46 | 63 | 440.85 |
| Illinois | 12 | 853 | 5266 | 6.17 | 43 | 438.83 |
| Southern Miss | 13 | 988 | 5636 | 5.70 | 52 | 433.54 |

## TOTAL DEFENSE

| | G | PLAYS | YDS | AVG | TD | YDS/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TCU | 13 | 739 | 2831 | 3.83 | 18 | 217.77 |
| USC | 13 | 798 | 2883 | 3.61 | 14 | 221.77 |
| Alabama | 14 | 858 | 3689 | 4.30 | 25 | 263.50 |
| Tennessee | 12 | 776 | 3162 | 4.07 | 20 | 263.50 |
| Boston College | 14 | 889 | 3754 | 4.22 | 31 | 268.14 |
| Connecticut | 13 | 791 | 3614 | 4.57 | 30 | 278.00 |
| Virginia Tech | 14 | 794 | 3912 | 4.93 | 27 | 279.43 |
| Penn State | 13 | 829 | 3641 | 4.39 | 22 | 280.08 |
| Florida | 14 | 896 | 3994 | 4.46 | 21 | 285.29 |
| South Florida | 13 | 814 | 3739 | 4.59 | 31 | 287.62 |
| Utah | 13 | 824 | 3759 | 4.56 | 28 | 289.15 |
| Iowa | 13 | 860 | 3787 | 4.40 | 17 | 291.31 |
| South Carolina | 13 | 804 | 3795 | 4.72 | 34 | 291.92 |
| Ohio State | 13 | 846 | 3819 | 4.51 | 21 | 293.77 |
| Florida State | 13 | 792 | 3834 | 4.84 | 29 | 294.92 |
| Wake Forest | 13 | 840 | 3857 | 4.59 | 27 | 296.69 |
| Northern Illinois | 13 | 775 | 3880 | 5.01 | 28 | 298.46 |
| Clemson | 13 | 871 | 3899 | 4.48 | 25 | 299.92 |
| Ole Miss | 13 | 848 | 3994 | 4.71 | 30 | 307.23 |
| Boise State | 13 | 925 | 4006 | 4.33 | 21 | 308.15 |

## TURNOVER MARGIN

| | GAINED | | | LOST | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | FUM | INT | GAINED | FUM | INT | LOST | MARGIN/G |
| Oklahoma | 15 | 19 | 34 | 2 | 9 | 11 | 1.64 |
| Florida | 9 | 26 | 35 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 1.57 |
| Buffalo | 25 | 8 | 33 | 8 | 6 | 14 | 1.36 |
| Baylor | 11 | 16 | 27 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 1.33 |
| Wake Forest | 19 | 18 | 37 | 13 | 7 | 20 | 1.31 |
| Ohio State | 14 | 15 | 29 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 1.23 |
| Navy | 14 | 16 | 30 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 1.15 |
| California | 10 | 24 | 34 | 9 | 10 | 19 | 1.15 |
| Rice | 15 | 16 | 31 | 9 | 7 | 16 | 1.15 |
| Air Force | 18 | 12 | 30 | 11 | 6 | 17 | 1.00 |
| Utah | 12 | 19 | 31 | 9 | 9 | 18 | 1.00 |
| Virginia Tech | 14 | 20 | 34 | 8 | 12 | 20 | 1.00 |
| TCU | 13 | 15 | 28 | 7 | 8 | 15 | 1.00 |
| Southern Miss | 12 | 17 | 29 | 7 | 9 | 16 | 1.00 |
| UTEP | 13 | 14 | 27 | 6 | 9 | 15 | 1.00 |
| West Virginia | 11 | 17 | 28 | 8 | 8 | 16 | 0.92 |
| Minnesota | 16 | 15 | 31 | 11 | 8 | 19 | 0.92 |
| Arkansas State | 9 | 15 | 24 | 7 | 8 | 15 | 0.75 |
| Louisiana Tech | 12 | 17 | 29 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 0.69 |
| Vanderbilt | 10 | 20 | 30 | 9 | 12 | 21 | 0.69 |

## PASSING OFFENSE

| | G | ATT | CMP | INT | PCT | YDS | YDS/CMP | TD | YDS/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Texas Tech | 13 | 662 | 465 | 10 | 70.24 | 5371 | 8.11 | 47 | 413.2 |
| Houston | 13 | 610 | 411 | 11 | 67.38 | 5221 | 8.56 | 45 | 401.6 |
| Oklahoma | 14 | 517 | 350 | 9 | 67.70 | 4891 | 9.46 | 51 | 349.4 |
| Missouri | 14 | 565 | 404 | 18 | 71.50 | 4625 | 8.19 | 41 | 330.4 |
| Rice | 13 | 516 | 339 | 7 | 65.70 | 4254 | 8.24 | 48 | 327.2 |
| BYU | 13 | 493 | 338 | 14 | 68.56 | 4035 | 8.18 | 35 | 310.4 |
| Texas | 13 | 447 | 343 | 8 | 76.73 | 4008 | 8.97 | 36 | 308.3 |
| Kansas | 13 | 500 | 333 | 13 | 66.60 | 3973 | 7.95 | 33 | 305.6 |
| Tulsa | 14 | 423 | 270 | 21 | 63.83 | 4226 | 9.99 | 47 | 301.9 |
| New Mexico State | 12 | 492 | 330 | 16 | 67.07 | 3616 | 7.35 | 25 | 301.3 |
| Western Michigan | 13 | 535 | 346 | 10 | 64.67 | 3831 | 7.16 | 37 | 294.7 |
| Central Michigan | 13 | 480 | 317 | 8 | 66.04 | 3767 | 7.85 | 28 | 289.8 |
| Boise State | 13 | 438 | 298 | 11 | 68.04 | 3751 | 8.56 | 30 | 288.5 |
| UTEP | 12 | 448 | 258 | 9 | 57.59 | 3410 | 7.61 | 34 | 284.2 |
| Nebraska | 13 | 433 | 295 | 11 | 68.13 | 3653 | 8.44 | 27 | 281.0 |
| Georgia | 13 | 400 | 246 | 10 | 61.50 | 3610 | 9.03 | 27 | 277.7 |
| SMU | 12 | 476 | 269 | 25 | 56.51 | 3275 | 6.88 | 29 | 272.9 |
| Rutgers | 13 | 415 | 250 | 15 | 60.24 | 3515 | 8.47 | 26 | 270.4 |
| Kansas State | 12 | 425 | 250 | 10 | 58.82 | 3235 | 7.61 | 22 | 269.6 |
| Illinois | 12 | 393 | 223 | 16 | 56.74 | 3232 | 8.22 | 22 | 269.3 |
| Eastern Michigan | 12 | 499 | 308 | 13 | 61.72 | 3232 | 6.48 | 17 | 269.3 |

## PASS-EFFICIENCY DEFENSE

| | G | ATT | COMP | PCT | INT | INT% | YDS | YDS/ATT | TD | TD% | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| USC | 13 | 382 | 199 | 52.09 | 19 | 4.97 | 1747 | 4.57 | 6 | 1.57 | 85.75 |
| Boise State | 13 | 449 | 234 | 52.12 | 22 | 4.90 | 2472 | 5.51 | 8 | 1.78 | 94.43 |
| Florida | 14 | 456 | 242 | 53.07 | 26 | 5.70 | 2518 | 5.52 | 12 | 2.63 | 96.76 |
| TCU | 13 | 384 | 193 | 50.26 | 15 | 3.91 | 2219 | 5.78 | 8 | 2.08 | 97.90 |
| Iowa | 13 | 463 | 256 | 55.29 | 23 | 4.97 | 2565 | 5.54 | 9 | 1.94 | 98.32 |
| California | 13 | 432 | 223 | 51.62 | 24 | 5.56 | 2509 | 5.81 | 12 | 2.78 | 98.44 |
| Boston College | 14 | 435 | 244 | 56.09 | 26 | 5.98 | 2477 | 5.69 | 9 | 2.07 | 98.81 |
| San Jose State | 12 | 356 | 187 | 52.53 | 16 | 4.49 | 2043 | 5.74 | 9 | 2.53 | 100.06 |
| Connecticut | 13 | 368 | 196 | 53.26 | 18 | 4.89 | 2187 | 5.94 | 9 | 2.45 | 101.51 |
| Clemson | 13 | 428 | 239 | 55.84 | 19 | 4.44 | 2243 | 5.24 | 14 | 3.27 | 101.74 |
| Tennessee | 12 | 332 | 186 | 56.02 | 17 | 5.12 | 1925 | 5.80 | 8 | 2.41 | 102.42 |
| Wake Forest | 13 | 382 | 199 | 52.09 | 18 | 4.71 | 2243 | 5.87 | 15 | 3.93 | 104.96 |
| Ohio State | 13 | 440 | 253 | 57.50 | 15 | 3.41 | 2386 | 5.42 | 12 | 2.73 | 105.23 |
| Alabama | 14 | 467 | 246 | 52.68 | 15 | 3.21 | 2651 | 5.68 | 18 | 3.85 | 106.68 |
| Arizona | 13 | 407 | 228 | 56.02 | 16 | 3.93 | 2365 | 5.81 | 12 | 2.95 | 106.68 |
| West Virginia | 13 | 428 | 240 | 56.07 | 17 | 3.97 | 2565 | 5.99 | 11 | 2.57 | 106.98 |
| Troy | 13 | 423 | 232 | 54.85 | 21 | 4.96 | 2441 | 5.77 | 18 | 4.26 | 107.39 |
| UCF | 12 | 398 | 208 | 52.26 | 18 | 4.52 | 2492 | 6.26 | 14 | 3.52 | 107.46 |
| Penn State | 13 | 399 | 225 | 56.39 | 16 | 4.01 | 2429 | 6.09 | 10 | 2.51 | 107.79 |
| Utah | 13 | 409 | 225 | 55.01 | 19 | 4.65 | 2470 | 6.04 | 15 | 3.67 | 108.54 |

## SCORING OFFENSE

| | G | PTS | TD | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oklahoma | 14 | 716 | 99 | 51.14 |
| Tulsa | 14 | 661 | 90 | 47.21 |
| Texas Tech | 13 | 569 | 79 | 43.77 |
| Florida | 14 | 611 | 82 | 43.64 |
| Texas | 13 | 551 | 74 | 42.38 |
| Missouri | 14 | 591 | 76 | 42.21 |
| Oregon | 13 | 545 | 71 | 41.92 |
| Rice | 13 | 537 | 74 | 41.31 |
| Oklahoma State | 13 | 530 | 69 | 40.77 |
| Houston | 13 | 528 | 71 | 40.62 |
| Penn State | 13 | 506 | 63 | 38.92 |
| Nevada | 13 | 489 | 64 | 37.62 |
| Boise State | 13 | 489 | 63 | 37.62 |
| USC | 13 | 488 | 66 | 37.54 |
| Utah | 13 | 480 | 59 | 36.92 |
| Arizona | 13 | 476 | 62 | 36.62 |
| Nebraska | 13 | 460 | 58 | 35.38 |
| Ball State | 14 | 489 | 63 | 34.93 |
| Kansas State | 12 | 419 | 56 | 34.92 |
| BYU | 13 | 445 | 59 | 34.23 |

## SCORING DEFENSE

| | G | PTS | TD | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| USC | 13 | 117 | 14 | 9.0 |
| TCU | 13 | 147 | 18 | 11.3 |
| Boise State | 13 | 164 | 21 | 12.6 |
| Florida | 14 | 181 | 21 | 12.9 |
| Iowa | 13 | 169 | 17 | 13.0 |
| Ohio State | 13 | 181 | 21 | 13.9 |
| Alabama | 14 | 200 | 25 | 14.3 |
| Penn State | 13 | 187 | 22 | 14.4 |
| Virginia Tech | 14 | 234 | 27 | 16.7 |
| Tennessee | 12 | 201 | 20 | 16.8 |
| West Virginia | 13 | 221 | 27 | 17.0 |
| Utah | 13 | 224 | 28 | 17.2 |
| Clemson | 13 | 225 | 25 | 17.3 |
| Auburn | 12 | 216 | 27 | 18.0 |
| Northern Illinois | 13 | 234 | 28 | 18.0 |
| Wake Forest | 13 | 238 | 27 | 18.3 |
| Boston College | 14 | 257 | 31 | 18.4 |
| Texas | 13 | 244 | 29 | 18.8 |
| Rutgers | 13 | 245 | 28 | 18.8 |
| Ole Miss | 13 | 247 | 30 | 19.0 |

# '08 FCS NCAA STATISTICS

COURTESY OF THE NCAA

—compiled by Tyler Nelson

## PASSING EFFICIENCY (MINIMUM OF 15 ATTEMPTS PER GAME)

| | YEAR | G | ATT | CMP | PCT | INT | INT% | YDS | YDS/ATT | TD | PCT | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jonathan Dally, Cal Poly | SR | 11 | 202 | 116 | 57.43 | 5 | 2.48 | 1960 | 9.70 | 23 | 11.39 | 171.6 |
| Armanti Edwards, Appalachian State | JR | 13 | 306 | 196 | 64.05 | 9 | 2.94 | 2902 | 9.48 | 30 | 9.80 | 170.2 |
| Cameron Higgins, Weber State | SO | 14 | 464 | 304 | 65.52 | 13 | 2.80 | 4460 | 9.61 | 36 | 7.76 | 166.3 |
| Brock Smith, Liberty | SR | 12 | 278 | 179 | 64.39 | 6 | 2.16 | 2620 | 9.42 | 19 | 6.83 | 161.8 |
| Sebastian Trujillo, San Diego | JR | 11 | 358 | 239 | 66.76 | 9 | 2.51 | 2822 | 7.88 | 35 | 9.78 | 160.2 |
| Bradley George, Texas State | JR | 12 | 301 | 181 | 60.13 | 6 | 1.99 | 2660 | 8.84 | 26 | 8.64 | 158.9 |
| R.J. Toman, New Hampshire | SO | 13 | 355 | 231 | 65.07 | 15 | 4.23 | 3110 | 8.76 | 28 | 7.89 | 156.2 |
| Cole Bergquist, Montana | SR | 16 | 371 | 225 | 60.65 | 8 | 2.16 | 3156 | 8.51 | 28 | 7.55 | 152.7 |
| Brandon Summers, Youngstown State | JR | 10 | 195 | 122 | 62.56 | 7 | 3.59 | 1540 | 7.90 | 18 | 9.23 | 152.2 |
| Ryan Berry, South Dakota State | SR | 12 | 395 | 256 | 64.81 | 13 | 3.29 | 3106 | 7.86 | 30 | 7.59 | 149.3 |
| Dustin Taliaferro, Samford | FR | 11 | 225 | 151 | 67.11 | 5 | 2.22 | 1745 | 7.76 | 13 | 5.78 | 146.9 |
| Derrick Fourroux, McNeese State | JR | 11 | 276 | 169 | 61.23 | 5 | 1.81 | 2205 | 7.99 | 18 | 6.52 | 146.2 |
| Chris Pizzotti, Harvard | SR | 10 | 308 | 193 | 62.66 | 4 | 1.30 | 2490 | 8.08 | 17 | 5.52 | 146.2 |
| Curtis Pulley, Florida A&M | JR | 11 | 178 | 98 | 55.06 | 5 | 2.81 | 1382 | 7.76 | 17 | 9.55 | 146.2 |
| Pat Grace, Northern Iowa | JR | 12 | 244 | 152 | 62.30 | 7 | 2.87 | 2041 | 8.36 | 14 | 5.74 | 145.8 |
| Antonio Hefner, Tennessee State | SR | 11 | 249 | 149 | 59.84 | 12 | 4.82 | 2237 | 8.98 | 15 | 6.02 | 145.5 |
| Liam Coen, Massachusetts | SR | 12 | 335 | 206 | 61.49 | 15 | 4.48 | 2749 | 8.21 | 24 | 7.16 | 145.1 |
| Zach MacDowall, Coastal Carolina | SO | 11 | 256 | 157 | 61.33 | 6 | 2.34 | 2064 | 8.06 | 16 | 6.25 | 145.0 |
| Devin Campbell, Gardner-Webb | SR | 9 | 220 | 139 | 63.18 | 3 | 1.36 | 1774 | 8.06 | 11 | 5.00 | 144.7 |
| Greg Denham, UC Davis | SO | 11 | 451 | 296 | 65.63 | 16 | 3.55 | 3478 | 7.71 | 27 | 5.99 | 143.1 |
| Matt Kobli, Butler | SO | 11 | 358 | 237 | 66.20 | 7 | 1.96 | 2518 | 7.03 | 23 | 6.42 | 142.6 |
| Josh McGregor, Jacksonville | FR | 13 | 305 | 172 | 56.39 | 11 | 3.61 | 2444 | 8.01 | 24 | 7.87 | 142.5 |
| Dominic Randolph, Holy Cross | JR | 11 | 520 | 340 | 65.38 | 17 | 3.27 | 3838 | 7.38 | 34 | 6.54 | 142.4 |
| Greg Sullivan, Colgate | SO | 12 | 206 | 125 | 60.68 | 7 | 3.40 | 1695 | 8.23 | 12 | 5.83 | 142.2 |
| Cade Thompson, Tennessee-Martin | JR | 12 | 328 | 190 | 57.93 | 14 | 4.27 | 2680 | 8.17 | 24 | 7.32 | 142.2 |

## TOTAL OFFENSE

| | | | RUSHING | | | | PASSING | | TOTAL OFFENSE | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | YEAR | G | CAR | GAIN | LOSS | NET | ATT | YDS | PLAYS | YDS | YDS/PL | YDS/G |
| Dominic Randolph, Holy Cross | JR | 11 | 65 | 197 | 118 | 79 | 520 | 3838 | 585 | 3917 | 6.70 | 356.1 |
| Rhett Bomar, Sam Houston State | SR | 10 | 81 | 351 | 164 | 187 | 436 | 3355 | 517 | 3542 | 6.85 | 354.2 |
| Jeremy Moses, Stephen F. Austin | SO | 12 | 56 | 131 | 205 | -74 | 598 | 4026 | 654 | 3952 | 6.04 | 329.3 |
| Cameron Higgins, Weber State | SO | 14 | 55 | 145 | 222 | -77 | 464 | 4460 | 519 | 4383 | 8.45 | 313.1 |
| Matt Nichols, Eastern Washington | JR | 11 | 56 | 223 | 140 | 83 | 451 | 3293 | 507 | 3376 | 6.66 | 306.9 |
| Greg Denham, UC Davis | SO | 11 | 44 | 47 | 211 | -164 | 451 | 3478 | 495 | 3314 | 6.69 | 301.3 |
| Armanti Edwards, Appalachian State | JR | 13 | 193 | 1169 | 228 | 941 | 306 | 2902 | 499 | 3843 | 7.70 | 295.6 |
| Bryant Lee, Southern | JR | 11 | 139 | 628 | 94 | 534 | 352 | 2682 | 491 | 3216 | 6.55 | 292.4 |
| Nathan Ford, Cornell | SR | 10 | 59 | 168 | 134 | 34 | 436 | 2815 | 495 | 2849 | 5.76 | 284.9 |
| Drew Hubel, Portland State | SO | 10 | 28 | 13 | 137 | -124 | 393 | 2912 | 421 | 2788 | 6.62 | 278.8 |
| Michael Dougherty, Brown | SR | 10 | 24 | 158 | 66 | 92 | 384 | 2677 | 408 | 2769 | 6.79 | 276.9 |
| Sean Schaefer, Towson | SR | 12 | 83 | 275 | 273 | 2 | 459 | 3286 | 542 | 3288 | 6.07 | 274.0 |
| Matt Kobli, Butler | SO | 11 | 117 | 629 | 136 | 493 | 358 | 2518 | 475 | 3011 | 6.34 | 273.7 |
| Chris Pizzotti, Harvard | SR | 10 | 87 | 332 | 146 | 186 | 308 | 2490 | 395 | 2676 | 6.77 | 267.6 |
| Sebastian Trujillo, San Diego | JR | 11 | 39 | 107 | 74 | 33 | 358 | 2822 | 397 | 2855 | 7.19 | 259.5 |
| Rob Florian, Dayton | SR | 10 | 81 | 308 | 61 | 247 | 354 | 2345 | 435 | 2592 | 5.96 | 259.2 |
| R.J. Toman, New Hampshire | SO | 13 | 106 | 433 | 214 | 219 | 355 | 3110 | 461 | 3329 | 7.22 | 256.1 |
| Jonathan Dally, Cal Poly | SR | 11 | 152 | 887 | 66 | 821 | 202 | 1960 | 354 | 2781 | 7.86 | 252.8 |
| Ryan Berry, South Dakota State | SR | 12 | 71 | 149 | 246 | -97 | 395 | 3106 | 466 | 3009 | 6.46 | 250.8 |
| Russel Hill, Idaho State | SO | 10 | 48 | 92 | 220 | -128 | 408 | 2634 | 456 | 2506 | 5.50 | 250.6 |
| Antonio Hefner, Tennessee State | SR | 11 | 115 | 683 | 180 | 503 | 249 | 2237 | 364 | 2740 | 7.53 | 249.1 |
| Paul Roberts, Mississippi Valley State | JR | 9 | 89 | 359 | 167 | 192 | 304 | 2039 | 393 | 2231 | 5.68 | 247.9 |
| Brian Babin, Southeastern Louisiana | JR | 11 | 80 | 170 | 254 | -84 | 412 | 2806 | 492 | 2722 | 5.53 | 247.5 |
| Bryan Waggener, Northern Colorado | JR | 11 | 96 | 387 | 217 | 170 | 397 | 2546 | 493 | 2716 | 5.51 | 246.9 |
| Jeff Ehrhardt, Murray State | SO | 9 | 78 | 402 | 81 | 321 | 266 | 1885 | 344 | 2206 | 6.41 | 245.1 |

## ALL-PURPOSE YARDAGE

| | YEAR | G | RUSH | REC | PR | KOR | PLAYS | YDS/PL | YDS | YDS/GM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nick Miller, Southern Utah | SR | 11 | 9 | 763 | 384 | 993 | 2149 | 16.40 | 131 | 195.36 |
| William Osborne, Texas Southern | JR | 12 | 36 | 1092 | 349 | 831 | 2308 | 14.89 | 155 | 192.33 |
| Larry Warner, Southern Illinois | SR | 12 | 1265 | 203 | 189 | 592 | 2249 | 8.15 | 276 | 187.42 |
| David McCarty, Albany (N.Y.) | JR | 12 | 1852 | 356 | 0 | 0 | 2208 | 5.75 | 384 | 184.00 |
| A.J. Kizekai, Bucknell | JR | 10 | 484 | 383 | 0 | 973 | 1840 | 10.89 | 169 | 184.00 |
| Karrington Bush, Texas State | SO | 13 | 1065 | 210 | 0 | 1055 | 2330 | 11.65 | 200 | 179.23 |
| Aaron Woods, Portland State | JR | 11 | 19 | 1028 | 13 | 908 | 1968 | 18.39 | 107 | 178.91 |
| Toddrick Pendland, McNeese State | JR | 11 | 1431 | 349 | 0 | 147 | 1927 | 7.27 | 265 | 175.18 |
| Herb Donaldson, Western Illinois | SR | 11 | 1784 | 76 | 0 | 0 | 1860 | 5.52 | 337 | 169.09 |
| Treyvn Smith, Weber State | JR | 14 | 1585 | 778 | 0 | 0 | 2363 | 6.62 | 357 | 168.79 |
| David Sinisi, Monmouth | JR | 11 | 1674 | 103 | 0 | 12 | 1789 | 5.94 | 301 | 162.64 |
| Jonathan Grimes, William & Mary | FR | 11 | 929 | 314 | 0 | 539 | 1782 | 7.92 | 225 | 162.00 |
| Roren Thomas, Tennessee-Martin | JR | 11 | 363 | 790 | 0 | 621 | 1774 | 19.93 | 89 | 161.27 |
| Andre Roberts, Citadel | JR | 12 | 94 | 1334 | 461 | 31 | 1920 | 13.24 | 145 | 160.00 |
| Terrence Holt, Austin Peay | SO | 11 | 287 | 26 | 135 | 1285 | 1733 | 13.75 | 126 | 157.55 |
| Rashad Jennings, Liberty | SR | 11 | 1500 | 190 | 0 | 0 | 1690 | 5.89 | 287 | 153.64 |
| Bryan Walters, Cornell | JR | 10 | 0 | 643 | 179 | 708 | 1530 | 15.45 | 99 | 153.00 |
| Dominic Bolden, Liberty | SR | 12 | 85 | 1056 | 308 | 365 | 1814 | 18.51 | 98 | 151.17 |
| Buddy Farnham, Brown | JR | 10 | 89 | 816 | 229 | 361 | 1495 | 12.25 | 122 | 149.50 |
| Gerald Stevenson, Charleston Southern | SO | 12 | 298 | 551 | 10 | 921 | 1780 | 14.02 | 127 | 148.33 |
| James Mallory, Central Conn. State | JR | 11 | 1520 | 85 | 0 | 0 | 1605 | 5.39 | 298 | 145.91 |
| Demetrius Crawford, Montana State | SR | 12 | 1314 | 101 | 0 | 295 | 1710 | 6.13 | 279 | 142.50 |
| Kyle Minett, South Dakota State | SO | 12 | 1289 | 415 | 0 | 0 | 1704 | 5.70 | 299 | 142.00 |
| Marc Mariani, Montana | JR | 16 | 12 | 1308 | 373 | 572 | 2265 | 19.19 | 118 | 141.56 |
| Maurice Dupree, Jacksonville State | SR | 11 | 26 | 799 | 193 | 537 | 1555 | 17.47 | 89 | 141.36 |

## RECEPTIONS PER GAME

| | YEAR | G | REC | YDS | TD | REC/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| John Matthews, San Diego | SR | 11 | 102 | 1478 | 21 | 9.27 |
| Andre Roberts, Citadel | JR | 12 | 95 | 1334 | 14 | 7.92 |
| Tysson Poots, Southern Utah | SO | 11 | 83 | 1236 | 14 | 7.55 |
| Terrell Hudgins, Elon | JR | 12 | 86 | 1116 | 10 | 7.17 |
| Steve Tedesco, Sacred Heart | JR | 11 | 77 | 891 | 10 | 7.00 |
| Tony Washington, Sacramento State | SR | 12 | 83 | 1279 | 12 | 6.92 |
| Dobson Collins, Gardner-Webb | SR | 11 | 76 | 937 | 10 | 6.91 |
| Juamorris Stewart, Southern | JR | 11 | 76 | 1138 | 12 | 6.91 |
| Mario D'Ambrosio, Portland State | JR | 11 | 76 | 900 | 9 | 6.91 |
| Bobby Sewall, Brown | JR | 10 | 69 | 948 | 8 | 6.90 |
| William Osborne, Texas Southern | JR | 12 | 82 | 1092 | 7 | 6.83 |
| Duane Brooks, Stephen F. Austin | JR | 10 | 68 | 863 | 4 | 6.80 |
| Jesse Baker, Cornell | SR | 10 | 66 | 725 | 6 | 6.60 |
| Shaun Pasternak, Bucknell | SO | 11 | 72 | 1083 | 12 | 6.55 |
| Raja Andrews, Georgia Southern | SR | 10 | 64 | 873 | 5 | 6.40 |
| Dan Bohrer, Butler | JR | 11 | 70 | 953 | 11 | 6.36 |
| Eddie Thompson, Idaho State | SR | 11 | 70 | 754 | 2 | 6.36 |
| Buddy Farnham, Brown | JR | 10 | 63 | 816 | 6 | 6.30 |
| Tim Mastrino, Iona | SR | 11 | 69 | 744 | 6 | 6.27 |
| Ramses Barden, Cal Poly | SR | 11 | 67 | 1257 | 18 | 6.09 |

## INTERCEPTIONS PER GAME

| | YEAR | G | NO | YDS | TD | INT/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mark LeGree, Appalachian State | SO | 13 | 10 | 32 | 0 | 0.77 |
| Donte Washington, Campbell | FR | 9 | 6 | 73 | 0 | 0.67 |
| Anthony Curry, Valparaiso | JR | 11 | 7 | 105 | 1 | 0.64 |
| Rory Foley, Marist | SO | 11 | 7 | 95 | 0 | 0.64 |
| Dave Casale, Albany (N.Y.) | JR | 12 | 7 | 52 | 1 | 0.58 |
| Kevis Buckley, Austin Peay | JR | 11 | 6 | 70 | 1 | 0.55 |
| Andy Green, Drake | SR | 11 | 6 | 61 | 1 | 0.55 |
| Deshawn Shead, Portland State | FR | 11 | 6 | 12 | 0 | 0.55 |
| Philip Ashley, Charleston Southern | JR | 12 | 6 | 117 | 0 | 0.50 |
| Zach Denton, Eastern Kentucky | SR | 12 | 6 | 99 | 0 | 0.50 |
| Desmond Lenard, Grambling State | JR | 12 | 6 | 98 | 1 | 0.50 |
| Korey Lindsey, Southern Illinois | SO | 12 | 6 | 81 | 1 | 0.50 |
| Anthony Beck, Prairie View A&M | JR | 10 | 5 | 133 | 2 | 0.50 |
| Chris Wynn, Pennsylvania | JR | 10 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0.50 |
| Nate Thellen, Northeastern | SO | 11 | 5 | 113 | 1 | 0.45 |
| Al-Rilwan Adeyemi, San Diego | FR | 11 | 5 | 94 | 2 | 0.45 |
| Darren Hunter, Savannah State | SO | 11 | 5 | 64 | 0 | 0.45 |
| K.J. Gerard, Northern Arizona | SR | 11 | 5 | 46 | 0 | 0.45 |
| Michael Landers, Robert Morris | JR | 11 | 5 | 41 | 0 | 0.45 |
| Tim Harvey, Drake | SO | 11 | 5 | 25 | 0 | 0.45 |
| Bryce Smith, Samford | SO | 11 | 5 | 19 | 0 | 0.45 |

## SCORING

| | YEAR | G | TD | XP | FG | PTS | PT/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Treyvn Smith, Weber State | JR | 14 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 168 | 12.00 |
| Herb Donaldson, Western Illinois | SR | 11 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 132 | 12.00 |
| David Sinisi, Monmouth | JR | 11 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 132 | 12.00 |
| Dane Romero, Wofford | SR | 12 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 138 | 11.50 |
| John Matthews, San Diego | SR | 11 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 126 | 11.45 |
| Rashad Jennings, Liberty | SR | 11 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 114 | 10.36 |
| Jordan Scott, Colgate | SR | 9 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 90 | 10.00 |
| Ramses Barden, Cal Poly | SR | 11 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 108 | 9.82 |
| Javarris Williams, Tennessee State | SR | 10 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 96 | 9.60 |
| Kyle Minett, South Dakota State | SO | 12 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 112 | 9.33 |
| Dominique Edison, Stephen F. Austin | SR | 12 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 108 | 9.00 |
| Andre Roberts, Citadel | JR | 12 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 108 | 9.00 |
| Obozua Ehikioya, Marist | SR | 11 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 96 | 8.73 |
| Chase Reynolds, Montana | SO | 16 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 138 | 8.63 |
| David McCarty, Albany (N.Y.) | JR | 12 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 102 | 8.50 |
| Bobby Sewall, Brown | JR | 10 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 84 | 8.40 |
| James Aston, Sam Houston State | JR | 10 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 84 | 8.40 |
| Andrew Wilcox, Elon | SR | 12 | 0 | 33 | 22 | 99 | 8.25 |
| Toddrick Pendland, McNeese State | JR | 11 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 90 | 8.18 |
| James Mallory, Central Conn. State | JR | 11 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 90 | 8.18 |

## RUSHING

| | YEAR | G | CAR | YDS | AVG | TD | YDS/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Herb Donaldson, Western Illinois | SR | 11 | 324 | 1784 | 5.51 | 21 | 162.18 |
| David McCarty, Albany (N.Y.) | JR | 12 | 357 | 1852 | 5.19 | 13 | 154.33 |
| David Sinisi, Monmouth | JR | 11 | 286 | 1674 | 5.85 | 22 | 152.18 |
| James Mallory, Central Conn. State | JR | 11 | 288 | 1520 | 5.28 | 15 | 138.18 |
| Rashad Jennings, Liberty | SR | 11 | 263 | 1500 | 5.70 | 17 | 136.36 |
| Toddrick Pendland, McNeese State | JR | 11 | 219 | 1431 | 6.53 | 12 | 130.09 |
| Jordan Scott, Colgate | SR | 9 | 221 | 1148 | 5.19 | 15 | 127.56 |
| Rodney Landers, James Madison | SR | 14 | 268 | 1770 | 6.60 | 16 | 126.43 |
| Jordan Culbreath, Princeton | JR | 10 | 213 | 1206 | 5.66 | 10 | 120.60 |
| Ed Gowins, Stony Brook | FR | 11 | 140 | 1310 | 9.36 | 11 | 119.09 |
| Josh Vaughan, Richmond | SR | 16 | 355 | 1884 | 5.31 | 20 | 117.75 |
| Chris Evans, Samford | SO | 11 | 260 | 1284 | 4.94 | 14 | 116.73 |
| William Ford, South Carolina State | JR | 13 | 246 | 1499 | 6.09 | 13 | 115.31 |
| Tim Maypray, VMI | JR | 11 | 195 | 1266 | 6.49 | 12 | 115.09 |
| Myles Russ, Robert Morris | SO | 11 | 215 | 1255 | 5.84 | 6 | 114.09 |
| Treyvn Smith, Weber State | JR | 14 | 295 | 1585 | 5.37 | 21 | 113.21 |
| Xavier Martin, Fordham | SO | 11 | 274 | 1237 | 4.51 | 7 | 112.45 |
| Tony Nelson, Massachusetts | JR | 12 | 243 | 1325 | 5.45 | 12 | 110.42 |
| Devan James, Morgan State | SO | 12 | 291 | 1320 | 4.54 | 8 | 110.00 |
| Demetrius Crawford, Montana State | SR | 12 | 251 | 1314 | 5.24 | 8 | 109.50 |

## PUNT RETURNS (MINIMUM OF 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

| | YEAR | NO | YDS | TD | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Andre Roberts, Citadel | JR | 24 | 461 | 3 | 19.21 |
| Austin Knowlin, Columbia | JR | 12 | 222 | 2 | 18.50 |
| Dominic Bolden, Liberty | SR | 17 | 308 | 2 | 18.12 |
| Marc Mariani, Montana | JR | 23 | 373 | 2 | 16.22 |
| Nick Miller, Southern Utah | SR | 24 | 384 | 1 | 16.00 |
| LeRoy Vann, Florida A&M | JR | 29 | 464 | 3 | 16.00 |
| William Osborne, Texas Southern | JR | 22 | 349 | 0 | 15.86 |
| Elliott Finkley, Jacksonville | SO | 39 | 611 | 3 | 15.67 |
| Jeremy Gilchrist, Hampton | SR | 28 | 437 | 3 | 15.61 |
| Tom Nelson, Illinois State | SR | 17 | 265 | 1 | 15.59 |
| Kiare Thompson, Grambling State | SO | 31 | 463 | 0 | 14.94 |
| Raja Andrews, Georgia Southern | SR | 20 | 280 | 1 | 14.00 |
| Jamaal Akbar, Tennessee-Martin | SR | 20 | 278 | 1 | 13.90 |
| Nicholas Andrews, Alabama State | FR | 19 | 255 | 0 | 13.42 |
| Scotty McGee, James Madison | JR | 23 | 296 | 3 | 12.87 |
| Corey Council, Bethune-Cookman | SR | 17 | 211 | 1 | 12.41 |
| Bryant Eteuati, Weber State | SR | 24 | 291 | 0 | 12.13 |
| De'Angelo Wilson, Youngstown State | SR | 18 | 216 | 1 | 12.00 |
| John Popper, Valparaiso | JR | 16 | 192 | 1 | 12.00 |
| Nick Feldman, Morehead State | SR | 34 | 404 | 0 | 11.88 |

## PUNTING (MINIMUM OF 3.6 PUNTS PER GAME)

| | YEAR | G | NO | YDS | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brett Arnold, Massachusetts | SR | 12 | 46 | 2080 | 45.22 |
| Robbie Dehaze, Northern Arizona | SR | 11 | 49 | 2212 | 45.14 |
| Doug Spada, Southeast Missouri State | JR | 12 | 47 | 2103 | 44.74 |
| Robert Ranney, Brown | SR | 10 | 43 | 1879 | 43.70 |
| Scott Ravanesi, Southern Illinois | JR | 12 | 52 | 2251 | 43.29 |
| Jahmal Blanchard, Hampton | JR | 11 | 58 | 2498 | 43.07 |
| Jason Leo, Lehigh | SR | 11 | 44 | 1890 | 42.95 |
| Trevor Ward, Southern Utah | JR | 11 | 63 | 2695 | 42.78 |
| Patrick Dolan, Nicholls State | SO | 9 | 38 | 1611 | 42.39 |
| Jon Vanderwielen, Idaho State | JR | 12 | 65 | 2754 | 42.37 |
| Oscar De Alba, Sacramento State | SR | 12 | 49 | 2076 | 42.37 |
| Fritz Brayton, Eastern Washington | SR | 11 | 52 | 2201 | 42.33 |
| Justin Keable, Bethune-Cookman | SO | 11 | 44 | 1856 | 42.18 |
| Aaron Haire, South Carolina State | JR | 12 | 58 | 2431 | 41.91 |
| Eric Fisher, Montana State | JR | 12 | 68 | 2841 | 41.78 |
| David Miller, William & Mary | SO | 11 | 45 | 1869 | 41.53 |
| Kash Kiefer, Maine | SR | 13 | 62 | 2572 | 41.48 |
| Mark Kaspar, Citadel | SR | 12 | 50 | 2067 | 41.34 |
| Mason Webb, Morehead State | SR | 12 | 73 | 3011 | 41.25 |
| Ken Wood, Montana | FR | 15 | 60 | 2474 | 41.23 |

## FIELD GOALS

| | YEAR | G | FGA | FGM | PCT | FG/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gavin Hallford, Jacksonville State | JR | 11 | 29 | 22 | 0.759 | 2.00 |
| Jeff Turner, Southeastern La. | SO | 9 | 20 | 17 | 0.850 | 1.89 |
| Taylor Rowan, Western Illinois | JR | 11 | 31 | 19 | 0.613 | 1.73 |
| Robbie Dehaze, Northern Arizona | JR | 11 | 24 | 18 | 0.750 | 1.64 |
| Dan Carpenter, Montana | SR | 12 | 23 | 19 | 0.826 | 1.58 |
| Peter Gaertner, Delaware State | SR | 12 | 25 | 19 | 0.760 | 1.58 |
| Jesse Hartley, Georgia Southern | JR | 11 | 24 | 17 | 0.708 | 1.55 |
| Piotr Czech, Wagner | SR | 11 | 19 | 16 | 0.842 | 1.45 |
| Jeremy Licea, Alabama A&M | SO | 11 | 21 | 16 | 0.762 | 1.45 |
| Billy Hallgren, Northern Iowa | FR | 12 | 25 | 17 | 0.680 | 1.42 |
| Eric Perri, Jackson State | SO | 12 | 24 | 17 | 0.708 | 1.42 |
| Alan Kimball, Yale | SR | 10 | 17 | 14 | 0.824 | 1.40 |
| Jon Striefsky, Delaware | SO | 15 | 24 | 21 | 0.875 | 1.40 |
| Justin Castellat, Norfolk State | SO | 11 | 25 | 15 | 0.600 | 1.36 |
| Noah Greenbaum, Liberty | SR | 11 | 19 | 15 | 0.789 | 1.36 |
| James Meade, Morgan State | JR | 10 | 18 | 13 | 0.722 | 1.30 |
| Steve Morgan, Brown | SR | 10 | 19 | 13 | 0.684 | 1.30 |
| Scott Beckler, Furman | SR | 11 | 22 | 14 | 0.636 | 1.27 |
| Brian Palmer, Youngstown State | JR | 11 | 15 | 14 | 0.933 | 1.27 |
| Mark Prevost, Samford | FR | 11 | 21 | 14 | 0.667 | 1.27 |
| Doug Spada, Southeast Mo. State | SO | 11 | 22 | 14 | 0.636 | 1.27 |
| Andrew Wilcox, Elon | JR | 11 | 24 | 14 | 0.583 | 1.27 |
| Taylor Wilkins, Sam Houston State | SO | 11 | 18 | 14 | 0.778 | 1.27 |
| Rob Zarrilli, Hofstra | SR | 11 | 26 | 14 | 0.538 | 1.27 |

## KICKOFF RETURNS (MINIMUM OF 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

| | YEAR | NO | YDS | TD | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kevin Teel, Hampton | SR | 15 | 553 | 2 | 36.87 |
| Larry Warner, Southern Illinois | SR | 19 | 592 | 3 | 31.16 |
| LeRoy Vann, Florida A&M | JR | 37 | 1101 | 3 | 29.76 |
| Lardarius Webb, Nicholls State | SR | 16 | 472 | 1 | 29.50 |
| Scotty McGee, James Madison | JR | 22 | 640 | 1 | 29.09 |
| Nkosi Still, Brown | SR | 12 | 342 | 0 | 28.50 |
| Maurice Dupree, Jacksonville State | SR | 19 | 537 | 1 | 28.26 |
| Henry Sailes, Tennessee Tech | SO | 16 | 449 | 1 | 28.06 |
| Marcus Harris, Murray State | SO | 16 | 431 | 0 | 26.94 |
| Aaron Weaver, Hofstra | SO | 21 | 557 | 0 | 26.52 |
| Dwight Fluker-Berry, Norfolk State | SO | 16 | 424 | 1 | 26.50 |
| Brett McDermott, Holy Cross | SR | 17 | 448 | 1 | 26.35 |
| A.J. Kizekai, Bucknell | JR | 37 | 973 | 1 | 26.30 |
| Chris Wynn, Pennsylvania | JR | 17 | 443 | 1 | 26.06 |
| Justin Perry, Northwestern State | SR | 12 | 312 | 1 | 26.00 |
| Aaron Woods, Portland State | JR | 35 | 908 | 1 | 25.94 |
| Tremaine Hudson, Tennessee Tech | FR | 17 | 436 | 0 | 25.65 |
| Jarred Herring, Northern Iowa | FR | 24 | 613 | 0 | 25.54 |
| Kenyon Blue, Idaho State | SR | 18 | 459 | 0 | 25.50 |
| Marquis Powell, Southeastern Louisiana | SR | 24 | 610 | 0 | 25.42 |

## RUSHING OFFENSE

| | G | CAR | YDS | AVG | TD | YDS/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Georgia Southern | 11 | 613 | 3589 | 5.85 | 38 | 326.27 |
| Wofford | 13 | 771 | 4026 | 5.22 | 44 | 309.69 |
| Appalachian State | 15 | 755 | 4311 | 5.71 | 53 | 287.40 |
| VMI | 11 | 647 | 3097 | 4.79 | 23 | 281.55 |
| Cal Poly | 11 | 574 | 2994 | 5.22 | 25 | 272.18 |
| Nicholls State | 11 | 572 | 2930 | 5.12 | 28 | 266.36 |
| James Madison | 12 | 595 | 3181 | 5.35 | 37 | 265.08 |
| Yale | 10 | 537 | 2649 | 4.93 | 31 | 264.90 |
| South Carolina State | 11 | 516 | 2869 | 5.56 | 20 | 260.82 |
| Central Conn. State | 11 | 600 | 2834 | 4.72 | 29 | 257.64 |
| Western Illinois | 11 | 544 | 2812 | 5.17 | 25 | 255.64 |
| Richmond | 14 | 589 | 3284 | 5.58 | 39 | 234.57 |
| Northern Arizona | 11 | 496 | 2546 | 5.13 | 23 | 231.45 |
| Rhode Island | 11 | 622 | 2529 | 4.07 | 23 | 229.91 |
| Northern Iowa | 13 | 616 | 2956 | 4.80 | 39 | 227.38 |
| Liberty | 11 | 431 | 2375 | 5.51 | 32 | 215.91 |
| Northwestern State | 11 | 522 | 2329 | 4.46 | 19 | 211.73 |
| Morgan State | 11 | 512 | 2328 | 4.55 | 21 | 211.64 |
| Tennessee State | 11 | 503 | 2319 | 4.61 | 26 | 210.82 |
| Albany (N.Y.) | 12 | 573 | 2507 | 4.38 | 28 | 208.92 |

## RUSHING DEFENSE

| | G | CAR | YDS | AVG | TD | YDS/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern Arizona | 11 | 307 | 658 | 2.14 | 12 | 59.8 |
| Dayton | 12 | 362 | 728 | 2.01 | 8 | 60.7 |
| Prairie View A&M | 10 | 259 | 657 | 2.54 | 7 | 65.7 |
| Brown | 10 | 291 | 771 | 2.65 | 3 | 77.1 |
| Jackson State | 12 | 384 | 971 | 2.53 | 9 | 80.9 |
| Morehead State | 12 | 395 | 1004 | 2.54 | 7 | 83.7 |
| Grambling State | 13 | 378 | 1099 | 2.91 | 14 | 84.5 |
| Montana State | 12 | 406 | 1066 | 2.63 | 21 | 88.8 |
| Pennsylvania | 10 | 301 | 907 | 3.01 | 7 | 90.7 |
| Lafayette | 11 | 341 | 1014 | 2.97 | 10 | 92.2 |
| Eastern Washington | 11 | 369 | 1028 | 2.79 | 13 | 93.5 |
| Richmond | 16 | 503 | 1504 | 2.99 | 11 | 94.0 |
| Morgan State | 12 | 417 | 1136 | 2.72 | 10 | 94.7 |
| Sacramento State | 12 | 367 | 1167 | 3.18 | 17 | 97.3 |
| Villanova | 13 | 411 | 1298 | 3.16 | 11 | 99.8 |
| Cal Poly | 11 | 342 | 1127 | 3.30 | 19 | 102.5 |
| Samford | 11 | 372 | 1140 | 3.06 | 11 | 103.6 |
| Columbia | 10 | 387 | 1043 | 2.70 | 16 | 104.3 |
| South Carolina State | 13 | 512 | 1381 | 2.70 | 12 | 106.2 |
| Northern Iowa | 15 | 493 | 1607 | 3.26 | 17 | 107.1 |

## TOTAL OFFENSE

| | G | PLAYS | YDS | AVG | TD | YDS/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cal Poly | 11 | 734 | 5362 | 7.31 | 67 | 487.45 |
| Wofford | 12 | 814 | 5606 | 6.89 | 60 | 467.17 |
| McNeese State | 11 | 799 | 5105 | 6.39 | 56 | 464.09 |
| Appalachian State | 14 | 958 | 6491 | 6.78 | 72 | 463.64 |
| Sam Houston State | 10 | 748 | 4573 | 6.11 | 46 | 457.30 |
| Holy Cross | 11 | 831 | 5009 | 6.03 | 49 | 455.36 |
| Weber State | 14 | 920 | 6374 | 6.93 | 67 | 455.29 |
| Texas State | 13 | 892 | 5892 | 6.61 | 62 | 453.23 |
| Liberty | 12 | 786 | 5360 | 6.82 | 51 | 446.67 |
| VMI | 11 | 700 | 4785 | 6.84 | 51 | 435.00 |
| UC Davis | 12 | 885 | 5117 | 5.78 | 45 | 426.42 |
| Colgate | 12 | 843 | 4998 | 5.93 | 49 | 416.50 |
| Stephen F. Austin | 12 | 879 | 4988 | 5.67 | 56 | 415.67 |
| Southern | 11 | 810 | 4571 | 5.64 | 40 | 415.55 |
| Jacksonville State | 11 | 727 | 4489 | 6.17 | 47 | 408.09 |
| Tennessee-Martin | 12 | 779 | 4867 | 6.25 | 61 | 405.58 |
| San Diego | 11 | 727 | 4459 | 6.13 | 54 | 405.36 |
| South Dakota State | 12 | 857 | 4863 | 5.67 | 54 | 405.25 |
| New Hampshire | 13 | 837 | 5255 | 6.28 | 60 | 404.23 |
| Tennessee State | 12 | 821 | 4823 | 5.87 | 48 | 401.92 |

## TOTAL DEFENSE

| | G | PLAYS | YDS | AVG | TD | YDS/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morgan State | 12 | 676 | 2561 | 3.79 | 31 | 213.42 |
| Jackson State | 12 | 743 | 2862 | 3.85 | 32 | 238.50 |
| Prairie View A&M | 10 | 571 | 2420 | 4.24 | 17 | 242.00 |
| Pennsylvania | 10 | 598 | 2498 | 4.18 | 19 | 249.80 |
| North Dakota State | 11 | 682 | 2794 | 4.10 | 23 | 254.00 |
| Dayton | 12 | 789 | 3070 | 3.89 | 26 | 255.83 |
| Grambling State | 13 | 800 | 3426 | 4.28 | 22 | 263.54 |
| Morehead State | 12 | 753 | 3167 | 4.21 | 31 | 263.92 |
| Drake | 11 | 697 | 2929 | 4.20 | 25 | 266.27 |
| Richmond | 16 | 978 | 4301 | 4.40 | 28 | 268.81 |
| South Carolina State | 13 | 865 | 3536 | 4.09 | 28 | 272.00 |
| Wagner | 11 | 680 | 3155 | 4.64 | 39 | 286.82 |
| Delaware State | 11 | 682 | 3172 | 4.65 | 29 | 288.36 |
| Yale | 10 | 725 | 2905 | 4.01 | 11 | 290.50 |
| Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 12 | 794 | 3536 | 4.45 | 30 | 294.67 |
| Bethune-Cookman | 11 | 683 | 3281 | 4.80 | 27 | 298.27 |
| Harvard | 10 | 691 | 2993 | 4.33 | 22 | 299.30 |
| Albany (N.Y.) | 12 | 809 | 3610 | 4.46 | 27 | 300.83 |
| Alabama State | 11 | 674 | 3321 | 4.93 | 31 | 301.91 |
| Lafayette | 11 | 683 | 3335 | 4.88 | 24 | 303.18 |

## TURNOVER MARGIN

| | GAINED | | | LOST | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | FUM | INT | GAINED | FUM | INT | LOST | MARGIN/G |
| Grambling State | 15 | 29 | 44 | 12 | 8 | 20 | 1.85 |
| Savannah State | 13 | 24 | 37 | 9 | 10 | 19 | 1.50 |
| Richmond | 14 | 29 | 43 | 12 | 7 | 19 | 1.50 |
| Northern Iowa | 16 | 24 | 40 | 10 | 8 | 18 | 1.47 |
| Yale | 9 | 19 | 28 | 12 | 3 | 15 | 1.30 |
| Samford | 12 | 18 | 30 | 10 | 6 | 16 | 1.27 |
| Central Conn. State | 10 | 16 | 26 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 1.27 |
| Norfolk State | 18 | 16 | 34 | 7 | 13 | 20 | 1.17 |
| Eastern Kentucky | 11 | 21 | 32 | 10 | 8 | 18 | 1.17 |
| Harvard | 9 | 15 | 24 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 1.10 |
| Drake | 15 | 14 | 29 | 6 | 11 | 17 | 1.09 |
| New Hampshire | 16 | 24 | 40 | 10 | 16 | 26 | 1.08 |
| Montana | 17 | 19 | 36 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 1.00 |
| Wofford | 9 | 13 | 22 | 7 | 4 | 11 | 0.92 |
| Cal Poly | 9 | 12 | 21 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 0.91 |
| Southeastern Lousiana | 21 | 9 | 30 | 12 | 8 | 20 | 0.83 |
| Albany (N.Y.) | 10 | 17 | 27 | 7 | 10 | 17 | 0.83 |
| Maine | 10 | 19 | 29 | 6 | 13 | 19 | 0.77 |
| Valparaiso | 8 | 17 | 25 | 9 | 8 | 17 | 0.73 |
| Brown | 14 | 7 | 21 | 4 | 10 | 14 | 0.70 |

## PASSING OFFENSE

| | G | ATT | CMP | INT | PCT | YDS | YDS/CMP | TD | YDS/G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Portland State | 11 | 559 | 307 | 20 | 54.92 | 4094 | 7.32 | 24 | 372.2 |
| Holy Cross | 11 | 523 | 340 | 17 | 65.01 | 3838 | 7.34 | 34 | 348.9 |
| Stephen F. Austin | 12 | 630 | 371 | 23 | 58.89 | 4149 | 6.59 | 41 | 345.8 |
| Sam Houston State | 10 | 449 | 250 | 13 | 55.68 | 3380 | 7.53 | 27 | 338.0 |
| Weber State | 14 | 479 | 312 | 13 | 65.14 | 4540 | 9.48 | 38 | 324.3 |
| UC Davis | 12 | 492 | 321 | 18 | 65.24 | 3708 | 7.54 | 28 | 309.0 |
| Eastern Washington | 11 | 458 | 277 | 14 | 60.48 | 3299 | 7.20 | 21 | 299.9 |
| Cornell | 10 | 450 | 276 | 19 | 61.33 | 2893 | 6.43 | 13 | 289.3 |
| Idaho State | 12 | 516 | 299 | 19 | 57.95 | 3396 | 6.58 | 17 | 283.0 |
| Towson | 12 | 469 | 308 | 16 | 65.67 | 3322 | 7.08 | 25 | 276.8 |
| Southern | 11 | 394 | 241 | 11 | 61.17 | 2992 | 7.59 | 21 | 272.0 |
| Texas State | 13 | 432 | 254 | 12 | 58.80 | 3499 | 8.10 | 34 | 269.2 |
| San Diego | 11 | 365 | 243 | 9 | 66.58 | 2960 | 8.11 | 37 | 269.1 |
| Brown | 10 | 384 | 220 | 10 | 57.29 | 2677 | 6.97 | 19 | 267.7 |
| South Dakota State | 12 | 415 | 270 | 13 | 65.06 | 3212 | 7.74 | 31 | 267.7 |
| Gardner-Webb | 11 | 397 | 246 | 9 | 61.96 | 2838 | 7.15 | 15 | 258.0 |
| SE Louisiana | 12 | 450 | 276 | 8 | 61.33 | 3087 | 6.86 | 29 | 257.3 |
| Harvard | 10 | 313 | 194 | 5 | 61.98 | 2493 | 7.96 | 18 | 249.3 |
| Southern Utah | 11 | 423 | 207 | 20 | 48.94 | 2742 | 6.48 | 23 | 249.3 |
| Georgia Southern | 11 | 408 | 236 | 17 | 57.84 | 2721 | 6.67 | 20 | 247.4 |

## PASS-EFFICIENCY DEFENSE

| | G | ATT | COMP | PCT | INT | INT% | YDS | YDS/ATT | TD | TD% | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grambling State | 13 | 422 | 210 | 49.76 | 29 | 6.87 | 2327 | 5.51 | 7 | 1.66 | 87.85 |
| Appalachian State | 14 | 458 | 218 | 47.60 | 19 | 4.15 | 2442 | 5.33 | 12 | 2.62 | 92.74 |
| Yale | 10 | 364 | 205 | 56.32 | 19 | 5.22 | 1821 | 5.00 | 6 | 1.65 | 93.32 |
| Morgan State | 12 | 259 | 117 | 45.17 | 19 | 7.34 | 1425 | 5.50 | 14 | 5.41 | 94.58 |
| Jacksonville | 13 | 391 | 189 | 48.34 | 16 | 4.09 | 2072 | 5.30 | 14 | 3.58 | 96.45 |
| Harvard | 10 | 372 | 197 | 52.96 | 15 | 4.03 | 1904 | 5.12 | 11 | 2.96 | 97.69 |
| Prairie View A&M | 10 | 312 | 160 | 51.28 | 14 | 4.49 | 1763 | 5.65 | 9 | 2.88 | 99.31 |
| Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 12 | 349 | 176 | 50.43 | 15 | 4.30 | 1931 | 5.53 | 12 | 3.44 | 99.63 |
| Dayton | 12 | 427 | 210 | 49.18 | 15 | 3.51 | 2342 | 5.48 | 16 | 3.75 | 100.61 |
| Savannah State | 12 | 299 | 155 | 51.84 | 24 | 8.03 | 1971 | 6.59 | 9 | 3.01 | 101.05 |
| Pennsylvania | 10 | 297 | 160 | 53.87 | 15 | 5.05 | 1591 | 5.36 | 12 | 4.04 | 102.13 |
| Richmond | 16 | 475 | 272 | 57.26 | 29 | 6.11 | 2797 | 5.89 | 12 | 2.53 | 102.89 |
| Jackson State | 12 | 359 | 186 | 51.81 | 11 | 3.06 | 1891 | 5.27 | 17 | 4.74 | 105.54 |
| Delaware State | 11 | 252 | 131 | 51.98 | 15 | 5.95 | 1575 | 6.25 | 10 | 3.97 | 105.69 |
| Bethune-Cookman | 11 | 273 | 147 | 53.85 | 12 | 4.40 | 1581 | 5.79 | 10 | 3.66 | 105.74 |
| Albany (N.Y.) | 12 | 372 | 196 | 52.69 | 17 | 4.57 | 2181 | 5.86 | 17 | 4.57 | 107.89 |
| Weber St. | 14 | 461 | 238 | 51.63 | 19 | 4.12 | 2937 | 6.37 | 18 | 3.9 | 109.76 |
| Florida A&M | 12 | 407 | 219 | 53.81 | 16 | 3.93 | 2449 | 6.02 | 17 | 4.18 | 110.27 |
| Jacksonville State | 11 | 349 | 194 | 55.59 | 11 | 3.15 | 2172 | 6.22 | 10 | 2.87 | 111.03 |
| Hampton | 11 | 306 | 162 | 52.94 | 10 | 3.27 | 1879 | 6.14 | 13 | 4.25 | 111.96 |

## SCORING OFFENSE

| | G | PTS | TD | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cal Poly | 11 | 488 | 67 | 44.36 |
| James Madison | 14 | 534 | 71 | 38.14 |
| McNeese State | 11 | 413 | 56 | 37.55 |
| Tennessee-Martin | 12 | 448 | 61 | 37.33 |
| Appalachian State | 14 | 522 | 72 | 37.29 |
| Wofford | 12 | 438 | 60 | 36.50 |
| Texas State | 13 | 473 | 62 | 36.38 |
| New Hampshire | 13 | 463 | 60 | 35.62 |
| South Dakota State | 12 | 427 | 54 | 35.58 |
| Sam Houston State | 10 | 353 | 46 | 35.30 |
| San Diego | 11 | 388 | 54 | 35.27 |
| Weber State | 14 | 493 | 67 | 35.21 |
| Florida A&M | 12 | 422 | 55 | 35.17 |
| Stephen F. Austin | 12 | 420 | 56 | 35.00 |
| VMI | 11 | 378 | 51 | 34.36 |
| Holy Cross | 11 | 378 | 49 | 34.36 |
| Liberty | 12 | 404 | 51 | 33.67 |
| William & Mary | 11 | 361 | 46 | 32.82 |
| Western Illinois | 11 | 355 | 47 | 32.27 |
| Georgia Southern | 11 | 350 | 46 | 31.82 |

## SCORING DEFENSE

| | G | PTS | TD | AVG |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yale | 10 | 105 | 11 | 10.5 |
| Prairie View A&M | 10 | 128 | 17 | 12.8 |
| Grambling State | 13 | 170 | 22 | 13.1 |
| Pennsylvania | 10 | 151 | 19 | 15.1 |
| Dayton | 12 | 184 | 26 | 15.3 |
| Richmond | 16 | 250 | 28 | 15.6 |
| South Carolina State | 13 | 221 | 28 | 17.0 |
| Lafayette | 11 | 193 | 24 | 17.5 |
| UNI | 15 | 265 | 34 | 17.7 |
| Montana | 16 | 284 | 32 | 17.8 |
| Harvard | 10 | 178 | 22 | 17.8 |
| Drake | 11 | 196 | 25 | 17.8 |
| Albany (N.Y.) | 12 | 218 | 27 | 18.2 |
| Liberty | 12 | 224 | 29 | 18.7 |
| Samford | 11 | 207 | 25 | 18.8 |
| San Diego | 11 | 208 | 24 | 18.9 |
| Brown | 10 | 190 | 23 | 19.0 |
| Bethune-Cookman | 11 | 210 | 27 | 19.1 |
| North Dakota State | 11 | 211 | 23 | 19.2 |
| Jacksonville | 13 | 252 | 33 | 19.4 |

**SAM BRADFORD**
HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER

# 2008 RECAP

JAMES LANG / US PRESSWIRE

## CONFERENCE STANDINGS

*Results and statistics courtesy NCAA*

### FBS

| | CONFERENCE | | | | OVERALL | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
| **ATLANTIC COAST** | | | | | | | | |
| ATLANTIC DIVISION | | | | | | | | |
| Florida State | 5 | 3 | 223 | 176 | 9 | 4 | 434 | 262 |
| Boston College | 5 | 3 | 206 | 204 | 9 | 5 | 346 | 257 |
| Maryland | 4 | 4 | 127 | 175 | 8 | 5 | 283 | 292 |
| Wake Forest | 4 | 4 | 133 | 144 | 8 | 5 | 273 | 238 |
| Clemson | 4 | 4 | 166 | 134 | 7 | 6 | 327 | 225 |
| N.C. State | 4 | 4 | 208 | 190 | 6 | 7 | 305 | 342 |
| COASTAL DIVISION | | | | | | | | |
| Virginia Tech | 5 | 3 | 151 | 138 | 10 | 4 | 309 | 234 |
| Georgia Tech | 5 | 3 | 180 | 156 | 9 | 4 | 317 | 264 |
| North Carolina | 4 | 4 | 184 | 169 | 8 | 5 | 360 | 275 |
| Miami (Fla.) | 4 | 4 | 219 | 220 | 7 | 6 | 352 | 314 |
| Virginia | 3 | 5 | 125 | 143 | 5 | 7 | 193 | 260 |
| Duke | 1 | 7 | 139 | 212 | 4 | 8 | 241 | 281 |
| **BIG EAST** | | | | | | | | |
| Cincinnati | 6 | 1 | 165 | 134 | 11 | 3 | 362 | 282 |
| Pittsburgh | 5 | 2 | 209 | 159 | 9 | 4 | 352 | 279 |
| West Virginia | 5 | 2 | 162 | 109 | 9 | 4 | 319 | 221 |
| Rutgers | 5 | 2 | 240 | 128 | 8 | 5 | 377 | 245 |
| Connecticut | 3 | 4 | 151 | 149 | 8 | 5 | 324 | 257 |
| South Florida | 2 | 5 | 136 | 162 | 8 | 5 | 359 | 260 |
| Louisville | 1 | 6 | 128 | 241 | 5 | 7 | 296 | 358 |
| Syracuse | 1 | 6 | 112 | 221 | 3 | 9 | 217 | 392 |
| **BIG TEN** | | | | | | | | |
| Penn State | 7 | 1 | 271 | 109 | 11 | 2 | 506 | 187 |
| Ohio State | 7 | 1 | 238 | 98 | 10 | 3 | 359 | 181 |
| Michigan State | 6 | 2 | 201 | 208 | 9 | 4 | 326 | 287 |
| Iowa | 5 | 3 | 238 | 130 | 9 | 4 | 394 | 169 |
| Northwestern | 5 | 3 | 191 | 187 | 9 | 4 | 317 | 262 |
| Wisconsin | 3 | 5 | 206 | 227 | 7 | 6 | 357 | 345 |
| Minnesota | 3 | 5 | 136 | 210 | 7 | 6 | 302 | 322 |
| Illinois | 3 | 5 | 218 | 206 | 5 | 7 | 344 | 319 |
| Purdue | 2 | 6 | 175 | 196 | 4 | 8 | 296 | 301 |
| Michigan | 2 | 6 | 177 | 268 | 3 | 9 | 243 | 347 |
| Indiana | 1 | 7 | 116 | 328 | 3 | 9 | 246 | 423 |
| **BIG 12** | | | | | | | | |
| NORTH | | | | | | | | |
| Missouri | 5 | 3 | 325 | 213 | 10 | 4 | 591 | 381 |
| Nebraska | 5 | 3 | 284 | 272 | 9 | 4 | 460 | 371 |
| Kansas | 4 | 4 | 251 | 293 | 8 | 5 | 434 | 375 |
| Kansas State | 2 | 6 | 231 | 339 | 5 | 7 | 419 | 430 |
| Colorado | 2 | 6 | 135 | 257 | 5 | 7 | 242 | 351 |
| Iowa State | 0 | 8 | 176 | 334 | 2 | 10 | 304 | 430 |
| SOUTH | | | | | | | | |
| Texas | 7 | 1 | 329 | 180 | 12 | 1 | 551 | 244 |
| Oklahoma | 7 | 1 | 441 | 246 | 12 | 2 | 716 | 343 |
| Texas Tech | 7 | 1 | 352 | 251 | 11 | 2 | 569 | 362 |
| Oklahoma State | 5 | 3 | 292 | 236 | 9 | 4 | 530 | 365 |
| Baylor | 2 | 6 | 199 | 257 | 4 | 8 | 336 | 352 |
| Texas A&M | 2 | 6 | 214 | 351 | 4 | 8 | 300 | 449 |
| **CONFERENCE USA** | | | | | | | | |
| EAST DIVISION | | | | | | | | |
| East Carolina | 6 | 2 | 187 | 156 | 9 | 5 | 328 | 295 |
| Southern Miss | 4 | 4 | 270 | 190 | 7 | 6 | 398 | 313 |
| Memphis | 4 | 4 | 227 | 209 | 6 | 7 | 353 | 353 |
| UAB | 3 | 5 | 178 | 255 | 4 | 8 | 273 | 375 |
| Marshall | 3 | 5 | 184 | 211 | 4 | 8 | 246 | 332 |
| UCF | 3 | 5 | 137 | 204 | 4 | 8 | 199 | 289 |
| WEST DIVISION | | | | | | | | |
| Tulsa | 7 | 1 | 395 | 247 | 11 | 3 | 661 | 391 |
| Rice | 7 | 1 | 353 | 278 | 10 | 3 | 537 | 433 |
| Houston | 6 | 2 | 349 | 256 | 8 | 5 | 528 | 402 |
| UTEP | 4 | 4 | 295 | 302 | 5 | 7 | 395 | 444 |
| Tulane | 1 | 7 | 147 | 305 | 2 | 10 | 200 | 414 |
| SMU | 0 | 8 | 188 | 297 | 1 | 11 | 256 | 458 |
| **MID-AMERICAN** | | | | | | | | |
| EAST | | | | | | | | |
| Buffalo | 5 | 3 | 256 | 223 | 8 | 6 | 424 | 395 |
| Bowling Green | 4 | 4 | 236 | 183 | 6 | 6 | 332 | 278 |
| Temple | 4 | 4 | 207 | 180 | 5 | 7 | 281 | 277 |
| Akron | 3 | 5 | 264 | 289 | 5 | 7 | 360 | 375 |
| Kent State | 3 | 5 | 229 | 264 | 4 | 8 | 308 | 380 |
| Ohio | 3 | 5 | 196 | 233 | 4 | 8 | 289 | 327 |
| Miami (Ohio) | 1 | 7 | 144 | 270 | 2 | 10 | 221 | 392 |

| | CONFERENCE | | | | OVERALL | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
| **MID-AMERICAN** | | | | | | | | |
| WEST | | | | | | | | |
| Ball State | 8 | 0 | 303 | 136 | 12 | 2 | 489 | 287 |
| Western Michigan | 6 | 2 | 219 | 187 | 9 | 4 | 372 | 324 |
| Central Michigan | 6 | 2 | 253 | 235 | 8 | 5 | 384 | 393 |
| Northern Illinois | 5 | 3 | 220 | 154 | 6 | 7 | 314 | 234 |
| Eastern Michigan | 2 | 6 | 210 | 317 | 3 | 9 | 309 | 427 |
| Toledo | 2 | 6 | 170 | 236 | 3 | 9 | 269 | 377 |
| **MOUNTAIN WEST** | | | | | | | | |
| Utah | 8 | 0 | 298 | 125 | 13 | 0 | 480 | 224 |
| TCU | 7 | 1 | 264 | 68 | 11 | 2 | 437 | 147 |
| BYU | 6 | 2 | 262 | 196 | 10 | 3 | 445 | 285 |
| Air Force | 5 | 3 | 205 | 180 | 8 | 5 | 348 | 289 |
| Colorado State | 4 | 4 | 212 | 233 | 7 | 6 | 327 | 393 |
| UNLV | 2 | 6 | 196 | 274 | 5 | 7 | 307 | 391 |
| New Mexico | 2 | 6 | 146 | 137 | 4 | 8 | 253 | 273 |
| Wyoming | 1 | 7 | 86 | 248 | 4 | 8 | 152 | 333 |
| San Diego State | 1 | 7 | 136 | 344 | 2 | 10 | 231 | 446 |
| **PAC-10** | | | | | | | | |
| USC | 8 | 1 | 325 | 80 | 12 | 1 | 488 | 117 |
| Oregon | 7 | 2 | 373 | 249 | 10 | 3 | 545 | 367 |
| Oregon State | 7 | 2 | 307 | 217 | 9 | 4 | 397 | 300 |
| California | 6 | 3 | 293 | 169 | 9 | 4 | 424 | 259 |
| Arizona | 5 | 4 | 306 | 204 | 8 | 5 | 476 | 277 |
| Stanford | 4 | 5 | 257 | 260 | 5 | 7 | 315 | 329 |
| Arizona State | 4 | 5 | 214 | 209 | 5 | 7 | 274 | 272 |
| UCLA | 3 | 6 | 154 | 229 | 4 | 8 | 212 | 348 |
| Washington State | 1 | 8 | 77 | 453 | 2 | 11 | 165 | 570 |
| Washington | 0 | 9 | 111 | 347 | 0 | 12 | 159 | 463 |
| **SOUTHEASTERN** | | | | | | | | |
| EAST | | | | | | | | |
| Florida | 7 | 1 | 359 | 100 | 13 | 1 | 611 | 181 |
| Georgia | 6 | 2 | 215 | 214 | 10 | 3 | 409 | 319 |
| South Carolina | 4 | 4 | 163 | 186 | 7 | 6 | 270 | 274 |
| Vanderbilt | 4 | 4 | 144 | 174 | 7 | 6 | 249 | 255 |
| Tennessee | 3 | 5 | 129 | 149 | 5 | 7 | 208 | 201 |
| Kentucky | 2 | 6 | 143 | 238 | 7 | 6 | 294 | 279 |
| WEST | | | | | | | | |
| Alabama | 8 | 0 | 255 | 115 | 12 | 2 | 422 | 200 |
| Ole Miss | 5 | 3 | 208 | 149 | 9 | 4 | 417 | 247 |
| LSU | 3 | 5 | 207 | 254 | 8 | 5 | 402 | 314 |
| Arkansas | 2 | 6 | 167 | 248 | 5 | 7 | 263 | 374 |
| Auburn | 2 | 6 | 93 | 149 | 5 | 7 | 208 | 216 |
| Mississippi State | 2 | 6 | 97 | 204 | 4 | 8 | 183 | 296 |
| **SUN BELT** | | | | | | | | |
| Troy | 6 | 1 | 252 | 117 | 8 | 5 | 426 | 277 |
| Louisiana-Lafayette | 5 | 2 | 254 | 224 | 6 | 6 | 397 | 404 |
| Florida Atlantic | 4 | 3 | 216 | 192 | 7 | 6 | 326 | 373 |
| Arkansas State | 4 | 3 | 182 | 170 | 6 | 6 | 324 | 285 |
| Florida International | 3 | 4 | 215 | 222 | 5 | 7 | 296 | 340 |
| Middle Tennessee | 3 | 4 | 170 | 182 | 5 | 7 | 274 | 299 |
| Louisiana-Monroe | 3 | 4 | 210 | 214 | 4 | 8 | 284 | 374 |
| North Texas | 0 | 7 | 134 | 312 | 1 | 11 | 240 | 571 |
| **WESTERN ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| Boise State | 8 | 0 | 343 | 94 | 12 | 1 | 489 | 164 |
| Louisiana Tech | 5 | 3 | 233 | 215 | 8 | 5 | 320 | 308 |
| Nevada | 5 | 3 | 320 | 234 | 7 | 6 | 489 | 420 |
| Hawaii | 5 | 3 | 223 | 198 | 7 | 7 | 345 | 404 |
| Fresno State | 4 | 4 | 225 | 259 | 7 | 6 | 385 | 404 |
| San Jose State | 4 | 4 | 154 | 181 | 6 | 6 | 224 | 259 |
| Utah State | 3 | 5 | 223 | 231 | 3 | 9 | 288 | 416 |
| New Mexico State | 1 | 7 | 156 | 293 | 3 | 9 | 266 | 409 |
| Idaho | 1 | 7 | 148 | 320 | 2 | 10 | 235 | 513 |
| **INDEPENDENTS** | | | | | | | | |
| Navy | | | | | 8 | 5 | 353 | 286 |
| Notre Dame | | | | | 7 | 6 | 321 | 288 |
| Army | | | | | 3 | 9 | 177 | 284 |
| Western Kentucky | | | | | 2 | 10 | 210 | 326 |

# FCS

### BIG SKY

| | CONFERENCE W | L | PF | PA | OVERALL W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Montana | 7 | 1 | 269 | 110 | 14 | 2 | 509 | 284 |
| Weber State | 7 | 1 | 287 | 172 | 10 | 4 | 493 | 317 |
| Montana State | 5 | 3 | 190 | 207 | 7 | 5 | 319 | 332 |
| Eastern Washington | 5 | 3 | 223 | 184 | 6 | 5 | 323 | 295 |
| Northern Arizona | 4 | 4 | 216 | 219 | 6 | 5 | 316 | 273 |
| Sacramento State | 3 | 5 | 198 | 253 | 6 | 6 | 319 | 324 |
| Portland State | 3 | 5 | 220 | 257 | 4 | 7 | 284 | 357 |
| Northern Colorado | 1 | 7 | 150 | 212 | 1 | 10 | 225 | 326 |
| Idaho State | 1 | 7 | 177 | 316 | 1 | 11 | 256 | 494 |

### BIG SOUTH

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Liberty | 5 | 0 | 186 | 74 | 10 | 2 | 404 | 224 |
| Charleston Southern | 3 | 2 | 87 | 93 | 7 | 5 | 277 | 268 |
| Stony Brook | 3 | 2 | 121 | 136 | 5 | 6 | 274 | 289 |
| Gardner-Webb | 2 | 3 | 106 | 126 | 5 | 6 | 267 | 261 |
| Coastal Carolina | 1 | 4 | 105 | 160 | 6 | 6 | 267 | 289 |
| VMI | 1 | 4 | 147 | 163 | 4 | 7 | 378 | 369 |

### COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **NORTH** | | | | | | | | |
| New Hampshire | 6 | 2 | 298 | 210 | 10 | 3 | 463 | 306 |
| Maine | 5 | 3 | 197 | 173 | 8 | 5 | 319 | 296 |
| Massachusetts | 4 | 4 | 216 | 200 | 7 | 5 | 345 | 321 |
| Hofstra | 2 | 6 | 158 | 255 | 4 | 8 | 265 | 346 |
| Rhode Island | 1 | 7 | 162 | 289 | 3 | 9 | 226 | 384 |
| Northeastern | 1 | 7 | 139 | 227 | 2 | 10 | 228 | 349 |
| **SOUTH** | | | | | | | | |
| James Madison | 8 | 0 | 340 | 156 | 12 | 2 | 534 | 323 |
| Villanova | 7 | 1 | 226 | 143 | 10 | 3 | 382 | 278 |
| Richmond | 6 | 2 | 258 | 158 | 13 | 3 | 506 | 250 |
| William & Mary | 5 | 3 | 243 | 201 | 7 | 4 | 361 | 264 |
| Delaware | 2 | 6 | 96 | 185 | 4 | 8 | 210 | 249 |
| Towson | 1 | 7 | 175 | 311 | 3 | 9 | 243 | 423 |

### GREAT WEST

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cal Poly | 3 | 0 | 169 | 91 | 8 | 3 | 488 | 292 |
| UC Davis | 2 | 1 | 111 | 98 | 5 | 7 | 342 | 326 |
| North Dakota | 1 | 2 | 69 | 80 | 6 | 4 | 321 | 263 |
| South Dakota | 1 | 2 | 95 | 103 | 6 | 5 | 412 | 205 |
| Southern Utah | 1 | 3 | 102 | 174 | 4 | 7 | 243 | 351 |

### IVY LEAGUE

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harvard | 6 | 1 | 195 | 117 | 9 | 1 | 274 | 178 |
| Brown | 6 | 1 | 205 | 105 | 7 | 3 | 269 | 190 |
| Penn | 5 | 2 | 132 | 100 | 6 | 4 | 190 | 151 |
| Yale | 4 | 3 | 109 | 58 | 6 | 4 | 197 | 105 |
| Princeton | 3 | 4 | 125 | 143 | 4 | 6 | 183 | 214 |
| Cornell | 2 | 5 | 117 | 164 | 4 | 6 | 185 | 246 |
| Columbia | 2 | 5 | 122 | 172 | 2 | 8 | 171 | 245 |
| Dartmouth | 0 | 7 | 77 | 223 | 0 | 10 | 129 | 343 |

### MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Carolina State | 8 | 0 | 281 | 93 | 10 | 3 | 387 | 221 |
| Florida A&M | 5 | 3 | 289 | 194 | 9 | 3 | 422 | 284 |
| Bethune-Cookman | 5 | 3 | 193 | 188 | 8 | 3 | 282 | 210 |
| Hampton | 5 | 3 | 194 | 175 | 6 | 5 | 272 | 260 |
| Delaware State | 5 | 3 | 181 | 149 | 5 | 6 | 220 | 228 |
| Morgan State | 4 | 4 | 154 | 161 | 6 | 6 | 240 | 234 |
| Norfolk State | 3 | 5 | 224 | 199 | 5 | 7 | 303 | 300 |
| North Carolina A&T | 1 | 7 | 80 | 298 | 3 | 9 | 172 | 366 |
| Howard | 0 | 8 | 131 | 270 | 1 | 10 | 197 | 337 |

### MISSOURI VALLEY

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern Iowa | 7 | 1 | 233 | 103 | 12 | 3 | 438 | 265 |
| Southern Illinois | 7 | 1 | 249 | 142 | 9 | 3 | 353 | 256 |
| South Dakota State | 6 | 2 | 288 | 168 | 7 | 5 | 427 | 348 |
| Western Illinois | 4 | 4 | 234 | 197 | 6 | 5 | 355 | 239 |
| North Dakota State | 4 | 4 | 225 | 175 | 6 | 5 | 329 | 211 |
| Missouri State | 3 | 5 | 181 | 269 | 4 | 7 | 266 | 389 |
| Youngstown State | 3 | 5 | 197 | 263 | 4 | 8 | 270 | 351 |
| Illinois State | 2 | 6 | 239 | 257 | 3 | 8 | 312 | 340 |
| Indiana State | 0 | 8 | 74 | 346 | 0 | 12 | 101 | 508 |

### NORTHEAST

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albany | 7 | 0 | 216 | 104 | 9 | 3 | 313 | 218 |
| Monmouth | 6 | 1 | 210 | 134 | 7 | 4 | 288 | 225 |
| Sacred Heart | 4 | 3 | 185 | 183 | 8 | 3 | 320 | 254 |
| Central Connecticut | 4 | 3 | 211 | 128 | 7 | 4 | 330 | 246 |
| Robert Morris | 4 | 3 | 192 | 170 | 5 | 6 | 254 | 251 |
| Duquesne | 2 | 5 | 139 | 175 | 3 | 7 | 215 | 263 |
| Wagner | 1 | 6 | 78 | 200 | 3 | 8 | 171 | 280 |
| St. Francis (Pa.) | 0 | 7 | 82 | 219 | 0 | 11 | 125 | 357 |

### OHIO VALLEY

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eastern Kentucky | 7 | 1 | 220 | 152 | 8 | 4 | 266 | 275 |
| Jacksonville State | 6 | 2 | 259 | 177 | 8 | 3 | 349 | 239 |
| Tennessee-Martin | 6 | 2 | 278 | 202 | 8 | 4 | 448 | 316 |
| Tennessee State | 5 | 3 | 245 | 196 | 8 | 4 | 375 | 287 |
| Murray State | 4 | 4 | 196 | 222 | 5 | 7 | 272 | 376 |
| Eastern Illinois | 3 | 5 | 176 | 179 | 5 | 7 | 272 | 281 |
| Southeast Missouri State | 2 | 6 | 172 | 218 | 4 | 8 | 262 | 364 |
| Austin Peay | 2 | 6 | 171 | 222 | 2 | 9 | 212 | 328 |
| Tennessee Tech | 1 | 7 | 148 | 297 | 3 | 9 | 240 | 420 |

### PATRIOT LEAGUE

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colgate | 5 | 0 | 166 | 125 | 9 | 3 | 363 | 349 |
| Holy Cross | 5 | 1 | 199 | 123 | 7 | 4 | 378 | 284 |
| Lehigh | 4 | 2 | 194 | 136 | 5 | 6 | 282 | 231 |
| Lafayette | 3 | 3 | 164 | 119 | 7 | 4 | 277 | 193 |

### PATRIOT LEAGUE

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bucknell | 2 | 4 | 132 | 200 | 5 | 6 | 269 | 339 |
| Fordham | 1 | 5 | 116 | 186 | 5 | 6 | 238 | 262 |
| Georgetown | 0 | 5 | 57 | 139 | 2 | 8 | 96 | 280 |

### PIONEER FOOTBALL LEAGUE

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jacksonville | 7 | 1 | 302 | 132 | 9 | 4 | 401 | 252 |
| San Diego | 6 | 2 | 282 | 156 | 9 | 2 | 388 | 208 |
| Dayton | 6 | 2 | 238 | 114 | 9 | 3 | 339 | 184 |
| Butler | 4 | 4 | 237 | 217 | 6 | 5 | 326 | 269 |
| Drake | 4 | 4 | 166 | 164 | 6 | 5 | 219 | 196 |
| Morehead State | 4 | 4 | 188 | 174 | 6 | 6 | 294 | 244 |
| Davidson | 3 | 5 | 238 | 219 | 4 | 7 | 286 | 280 |
| Valparaiso | 2 | 6 | 158 | 292 | 3 | 8 | 202 | 336 |
| Campbell | 0 | 8 | 35 | 376 | 1 | 10 | 98 | 447 |

### SOUTHERN

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Appalachian State | 8 | 0 | 323 | 152 | 11 | 3 | 522 | 303 |
| Wofford | 7 | 1 | 311 | 193 | 9 | 3 | 438 | 298 |
| Elon | 6 | 2 | 214 | 170 | 8 | 4 | 323 | 256 |
| Furman | 4 | 4 | 169 | 187 | 7 | 5 | 303 | 267 |
| Georgia Southern | 4 | 4 | 261 | 234 | 6 | 5 | 350 | 326 |
| Samford | 4 | 4 | 181 | 154 | 6 | 5 | 274 | 207 |
| Citadel | 2 | 6 | 201 | 248 | 4 | 8 | 328 | 394 |
| Western Carolina | 1 | 7 | 137 | 238 | 3 | 9 | 211 | 347 |
| Chattanooga | 0 | 8 | 94 | 315 | 1 | 11 | 153 | 455 |

### SOUTHLAND

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Central Arkansas | 6 | 1 | 262 | 188 | 10 | 2 | 450 | 308 |
| Texas State | 5 | 2 | 282 | 207 | 8 | 5 | 473 | 407 |
| McNeese State | 4 | 3 | 225 | 209 | 7 | 4 | 413 | 322 |
| Northwestern State | 4 | 3 | 172 | 191 | 7 | 5 | 320 | 339 |
| Nicholls State | 3 | 4 | 207 | 247 | 3 | 6 | 231 | 312 |
| Southeastern Louisiana | 2 | 5 | 188 | 221 | 5 | 7 | 327 | 389 |
| Sam Houston State | 2 | 5 | 232 | 246 | 4 | 6 | 353 | 331 |
| Stephen F. Austin | 2 | 5 | 246 | 305 | 4 | 8 | 420 | 475 |

### SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EAST** | | | | | | | | |
| Jackson State | 6 | 1 | 191 | 128 | 7 | 5 | 253 | 248 |
| Alabama A&M | 4 | 3 | 158 | 157 | 5 | 7 | 265 | 324 |
| Alabama State | 2 | 5 | 100 | 130 | 3 | 8 | 154 | 246 |
| Mississippi Valley State | 1 | 6 | 150 | 282 | 3 | 8 | 232 | 400 |
| Alcorn State | 1 | 6 | 130 | 173 | 2 | 10 | 181 | 349 |
| **WEST** | | | | | | | | |
| Grambling State | 7 | 0 | 219 | 74 | 11 | 2 | 348 | 170 |
| Prairie View A&M | 6 | 1 | 177 | 96 | 9 | 1 | 307 | 128 |
| Southern University | 5 | 2 | 178 | 131 | 6 | 5 | 311 | 279 |
| Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 2 | 5 | 120 | 125 | 3 | 9 | 189 | 234 |
| Texas Southern | 1 | 6 | 130 | 257 | 4 | 8 | 292 | 472 |

### INDEPENDENTS

| | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bryant | 7 | 4 | 239 | 229 |
| Savannah State | 5 | 7 | 230 | 241 |
| Marist | 4 | 7 | 224 | 251 |
| N.C. Central | 4 | 7 | 191 | 349 |
| Presbyterian | 4 | 8 | 266 | 416 |
| Iona | 3 | 8 | 210 | 420 |
| Winston-Salem State | 3 | 8 | 177 | 250 |

# DIVISION II

### CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

| | CONFERENCE W | L | PF | PA | OVERALL W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EAST** | | | | | | | | |
| Elizabeth City State | 7 | 0 | 252 | 66 | 7 | 4 | 361 | 203 |
| Bowie State | 4 | 3 | 137 | 118 | 5 | 4 | 188 | 158 |
| Virginia State | 4 | 3 | 167 | 112 | 5 | 5 | 221 | 202 |
| St. Paul's | 3 | 4 | 77 | 132 | 5 | 5 | 123 | 195 |
| Virginia Union | 3 | 4 | 204 | 129 | 5 | 5 | 277 | 159 |
| **WEST** | | | | | | | | |
| Fayetteville State | 6 | 1 | 246 | 92 | 8 | 2 | 370 | 152 |
| Shaw | 6 | 1 | 317 | 111 | 8 | 3 | 447 | 198 |
| St. Augustine's | 3 | 4 | 100 | 91 | 4 | 6 | 178 | 194 |
| Livingstone | 3 | 4 | 75 | 179 | 3 | 7 | 160 | 350 |
| Johnson C. Smith | 2 | 5 | 149 | 300 | 3 | 7 | 222 | 375 |
| Chowan | 1 | 6 | 101 | 298 | 2 | 8 | 216 | 440 |

### GREAT LAKES INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grand Valley State | 10 | 0 | 409 | 126 | 11 | 1 | 462 | 152 |
| Ashland | 8 | 2 | 376 | 278 | 9 | 4 | 452 | 383 |
| Michigan Tech | 7 | 3 | 295 | 301 | 8 | 3 | 321 | 322 |
| Wayne State | 7 | 3 | 208 | 151 | 8 | 3 | 222 | 224 |
| Saginaw Valley | 7 | 3 | 262 | 224 | 7 | 3 | 262 | 224 |
| Hillsdale | 6 | 4 | 265 | 230 | 7 | 4 | 314 | 236 |
| Ferris State | 5 | 5 | 168 | 216 | 6 | 5 | 182 | 228 |

# DIVISION II

### GREAT LAKES INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

| | CONFERENCE W | L | PF | PA | OVERALL W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indianapolis | 4 | 6 | 246 | 242 | 5 | 6 | 286 | 256 |
| Northern Michigan | 2 | 8 | 208 | 320 | 2 | 8 | 208 | 320 |
| Northwood | 2 | 8 | 215 | 310 | 2 | 8 | 215 | 310 |
| Findlay | 1 | 9 | 186 | 275 | 2 | 9 | 212 | 275 |
| Tiffin | 1 | 9 | 203 | 368 | 1 | 10 | 215 | 382 |

### GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Central Washington | 8 | 0 | 343 | 180 | 10 | 2 | 504 | 287 |
| Western Oregon | 5 | 3 | 258 | 220 | 7 | 4 | 323 | 273 |
| Western Washington | 5 | 3 | 235 | 223 | 6 | 5 | 323 | 317 |
| Dixie State | 2 | 6 | 190 | 239 | 4 | 7 | 262 | 309 |
| Humboldt State | 0 | 8 | 117 | 281 | 2 | 9 | 169 | 357 |

### GULF SOUTH

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Delta State | 8 | 0 | 310 | 159 | 10 | 2 | 335 | 361 |
| North Alabama | 7 | 1 | 350 | 124 | 12 | 2 | 578 | 243 |
| Valdosta State | 6 | 2 | 236 | 154 | 9 | 3 | 340 | 224 |
| Ouachita Baptist | 5 | 3 | 236 | 245 | 7 | 3 | 341 | 297 |
| Arkansas-Monticello | 5 | 3 | 283 | 252 | 7 | 4 | 377 | 320 |
| Henderson State | 4 | 4 | 280 | 246 | 5 | 5 | 328 | 284 |
| Arkansas Tech | 4 | 4 | 270 | 284 | 5 | 5 | 305 | 336 |
| West Alabama | 2 | 6 | 183 | 217 | 4 | 7 | 283 | 273 |
| Southern Arkansas | 2 | 6 | 165 | 245 | 2 | 8 | 200 | 336 |
| Harding | 1 | 7 | 237 | 327 | 2 | 9 | 336 | 442 |
| West Georgia | 0 | 8 | 102 | 399 | 0 | 10 | 124 | 448 |

### LONE STAR

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **NORTH** | | | | | | | | |
| Central Oklahoma | 5 | 0 | 139 | 66 | 7 | 4 | 273 | 287 |
| Southeastern Oklahoma | 4 | 1 | 130 | 120 | 6 | 5 | 246 | 334 |
| Texas A&M-Commerce | 3 | 2 | 123 | 104 | 5 | 5 | 202 | 238 |
| East Central | 2 | 3 | 160 | 165 | 3 | 8 | 262 | 435 |
| Southwestern Oklahoma | 1 | 4 | 78 | 131 | 3 | 8 | 216 | 280 |
| Northeastern State | 0 | 5 | 118 | 162 | 1 | 10 | 202 | 350 |
| **SOUTH** | | | | | | | | |
| Abilene Christian | 6 | 0 | 285 | 104 | 11 | 1 | 628 | 275 |
| West Texas A&M | 5 | 1 | 261 | 128 | 11 | 2 | 626 | 343 |
| Tarleton State | 3 | 3 | 143 | 176 | 8 | 3 | 336 | 240 |
| Texas A&M-Kingsville | 3 | 3 | 168 | 197 | 7 | 4 | 344 | 271 |
| Midwestern State | 3 | 3 | 161 | 161 | 6 | 4 | 252 | 232 |
| Angelo State | 1 | 5 | 73 | 177 | 3 | 8 | 155 | 272 |
| Eastern New Mexico | 0 | 6 | 120 | 268 | 2 | 9 | 253 | 388 |

### MID-AMERICA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NW Missouri State | 9 | 0 | 372 | 117 | 10 | 1 | 600 | 288 |
| Pittsburg State | 8 | 1 | 340 | 263 | 10 | 1 | 462 | 306 |
| Nebraska-Omaha | 6 | 3 | 291 | 252 | 7 | 3 | 340 | 273 |
| Central Missouri | 5 | 4 | 302 | 260 | 7 | 4 | 380 | 282 |
| Missouri Western St. | 5 | 4 | 273 | 313 | 6 | 5 | 329 | 387 |
| Washburn | 4 | 5 | 182 | 206 | 6 | 5 | 244 | 236 |
| Truman State | 3 | 6 | 220 | 258 | 4 | 6 | 292 | 318 |
| Emporia State | 2 | 7 | 194 | 289 | 4 | 7 | 221 | 303 |
| Missouri Southern | 2 | 7 | 130 | 252 | 4 | 7 | 241 | 292 |
| Fort Hays State | 1 | 8 | 114 | 258 | 2 | 9 | 175 | 295 |

### NORTHEAST-10

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| American International | 7 | 0 | 242 | 121 | 9 | 2 | 346 | 188 |
| Southern Connecticut | 6 | 1 | 251 | 96 | 8 | 3 | 372 | 225 |
| Merrimack | 4 | 3 | 206 | 205 | 6 | 4 | 289 | 239 |
| Bentley | 4 | 3 | 138 | 188 | 5 | 6 | 208 | 325 |
| Pace | 3 | 4 | 149 | 189 | 4 | 6 | 216 | 267 |
| Stonehill | 2 | 5 | 144 | 125 | 4 | 6 | 227 | 180 |
| Saint Anselm | 1 | 6 | 87 | 231 | 2 | 8 | 143 | 316 |
| Assumption | 1 | 6 | 120 | 182 | 1 | 9 | 168 | 285 |
| Western Washington | 1 | 7 | 139 | 265 | 2 | 8 | 174 | 321 |

### NORTHERN SUN

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **NORTH** | | | | | | | | |
| Minnesota-Duluth | 6 | 0 | 300 | 73 | 15 | 0 | 613 | 173 |
| St. Cloud State | 5 | 1 | 190 | 85 | 7 | 4 | 309 | 190 |
| Bemidji State | 3 | 3 | 145 | 180 | 5 | 6 | 228 | 305 |
| Mary | 3 | 3 | 134 | 146 | 4 | 7 | 208 | 302 |
| Minnesota St.-Moorhead | 2 | 4 | 106 | 171 | 2 | 9 | 187 | 330 |
| Minnesota-Crookston | 1 | 5 | 70 | 255 | 2 | 9 | 166 | 470 |
| Northern State | 1 | 5 | 131 | 166 | 1 | 10 | 237 | 356 |
| **SOUTH** | | | | | | | | |
| Minnesota State | 5 | 1 | 203 | 122 | 9 | 3 | 364 | 199 |
| Wayne State (Neb.) | 5 | 1 | 213 | 110 | 9 | 3 | 364 | 224 |
| Augustana | 4 | 2 | 193 | 155 | 8 | 4 | 369 | 255 |
| SW Minnesota State | 3 | 3 | 173 | 194 | 6 | 5 | 323 | 312 |
| Winona State | 3 | 3 | 205 | 173 | 6 | 5 | 353 | 284 |
| Concordia-St. Paul | 1 | 5 | 99 | 207 | 4 | 7 | 210 | 314 |
| Upper Iowa | 0 | 6 | 94 | 219 | 2 | 9 | 234 | 386 |

### PENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EASTERN** | | | | | | | | |
| West Chester | 7 | 0 | 250 | 83 | 9 | 4 | 448 | 288 |
| Bloomsburg | 6 | 1 | 225 | 105 | 11 | 2 | 407 | 202 |
| East Stroudsburg | 5 | 2 | 263 | 192 | 9 | 2 | 387 | 262 |
| Kutztown | 4 | 3 | 152 | 172 | 5 | 6 | 238 | 270 |
| Shippensburg | 3 | 4 | 193 | 163 | 4 | 7 | 273 | 238 |
| C.W. Post | 2 | 5 | 169 | 164 | 3 | 8 | 225 | 309 |
| Millersville | 1 | 6 | 169 | 257 | 1 | 10 | 231 | 421 |
| Cheyney | 0 | 7 | 51 | 331 | 0 | 11 | 115 | 498 |

### PENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WESTERN** | | | | | | | | |
| California (Pa.) | 7 | 0 | 254 | 113 | 12 | 2 | 498 | 281 |
| Edinboro | 5 | 2 | 217 | 103 | 9 | 2 | 355 | 144 |
| Indiana (Pa.) | 5 | 2 | 247 | 104 | 8 | 2 | 385 | 114 |
| Mercyhurst | 5 | 2 | 199 | 143 | 7 | 4 | 265 | 198 |
| Slippery Rock | 3 | 4 | 168 | 160 | 5 | 6 | 275 | 273 |
| Gannon | 2 | 5 | 142 | 200 | 4 | 7 | 226 | 301 |
| Clarion | 1 | 6 | 115 | 295 | 3 | 8 | 230 | 407 |
| Lock Haven | 0 | 7 | 52 | 276 | 0 | 11 | 86 | 409 |

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chadron State | 9 | 0 | 333 | 118 | 11 | 2 | 434 | 210 |
| Colorado Mines | 7 | 2 | 248 | 152 | 8 | 4 | 298 | 221 |
| Nebraska-Kearney | 7 | 2 | 356 | 137 | 7 | 4 | 389 | 214 |
| Mesa State | 6 | 3 | 235 | 213 | 6 | 5 | 269 | 284 |
| Adams State | 5 | 4 | 129 | 176 | 5 | 6 | 142 | 273 |
| Colorado St.-Pueblo | 3 | 6 | 127 | 198 | 4 | 6 | 151 | 211 |
| New Mexico Highlands | 3 | 6 | 154 | 247 | 3 | 8 | 164 | 352 |
| Western New Mexico | 2 | 7 | 217 | 300 | 2 | 8 | 220 | 335 |
| Western State | 2 | 7 | 185 | 264 | 2 | 8 | 185 | 306 |
| Fort Lewis | 1 | 8 | 83 | 262 | 2 | 9 | 111 | 320 |

### SOUTH ATLANTIC

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tusculum | 5 | 2 | 294 | 240 | 9 | 4 | 452 | 350 |
| Carson-Newman | 5 | 2 | 278 | 192 | 7 | 4 | 447 | 268 |
| Newberry | 5 | 2 | 186 | 142 | 6 | 4 | 246 | 183 |
| Wingate | 4 | 3 | 246 | 209 | 8 | 3 | 353 | 273 |
| Mars Hill | 4 | 3 | 221 | 204 | 7 | 4 | 341 | 329 |
| Catawba | 4 | 3 | 195 | 163 | 6 | 4 | 292 | 213 |
| Lenoir-Rhyne | 1 | 6 | 168 | 292 | 3 | 8 | 276 | 352 |
| Brevard | 0 | 7 | 96 | 242 | 1 | 9 | 136 | 310 |

### SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tuskegee | 9 | 0 | 357 | 159 | 10 | 1 | 404 | 200 |
| Albany State | 6 | 3 | 260 | 138 | 7 | 4 | 309 | 182 |
| Morehouse | 6 | 3 | 224 | 234 | 6 | 4 | 241 | 262 |
| Fort Valley State | 6 | 3 | 235 | 171 | 6 | 5 | 240 | 254 |
| Clark Atlanta | 5 | 4 | 216 | 202 | 6 | 5 | 258 | 222 |
| Benedict | 4 | 5 | 170 | 221 | 5 | 6 | 190 | 276 |
| Lane | 4 | 5 | 244 | 246 | 4 | 7 | 272 | 306 |
| Stillman | 2 | 7 | 200 | 247 | 3 | 8 | 227 | 280 |
| Miles | 2 | 7 | 84 | 276 | 2 | 8 | 108 | 305 |
| Kentucky State | 1 | 8 | 275 | 371 | 3 | 8 | 337 | 427 |

### WEST VIRGINIA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Glenville State | 7 | 1 | 289 | 176 | 8 | 3 | 373 | 254 |
| Seton Hill | 6 | 2 | 253 | 220 | 10 | 3 | 351 | 334 |
| West Liberty State | 6 | 2 | 257 | 193 | 7 | 4 | 326 | 276 |
| West Virginia State | 5 | 3 | 221 | 237 | 7 | 3 | 335 | 263 |
| Charleston | 5 | 3 | 217 | 174 | 7 | 4 | 306 | 265 |
| Shepherd | 3 | 5 | 248 | 174 | 5 | 5 | 282 | 190 |
| Fairmont State | 3 | 5 | 195 | 176 | 5 | 6 | 266 | 255 |
| West Virginia Wesleyan | 1 | 7 | 130 | 260 | 1 | 10 | 179 | 357 |
| Concord | 0 | 8 | 99 | 299 | 0 | 11 | 123 | 461 |

### INDEPENDENTS

| | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| UNC Pembroke | 9 | 1 | 326 | 112 |
| Panhandle State (Okla.) | 3 | 7 | 132 | 193 |
| North Greenville (S.C.) | 2 | 9 | 183 | 382 |

# DIVISION III

### AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

| | CONFERENCE W | L | PF | PA | OVERALL W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mary Hardin-Baylor | 8 | 0 | 326 | 75 | 12 | 2 | 544 | 217 |
| Hardin-Simmons | 7 | 1 | 341 | 136 | 9 | 2 | 429 | 219 |
| Louisiana College | 5 | 3 | 197 | 154 | 7 | 3 | 228 | 173 |
| East Texas Baptist | 5 | 3 | 189 | 178 | 5 | 5 | 225 | 240 |
| Mississippi College | 5 | 3 | 250 | 142 | 5 | 5 | 284 | 233 |
| Texas Lutheran | 3 | 5 | 111 | 257 | 4 | 6 | 145 | 308 |
| Sul Ross State | 2 | 6 | 127 | 242 | 3 | 7 | 184 | 290 |
| Howard Payne | 1 | 7 | 121 | 309 | 2 | 8 | 147 | 335 |
| McMurry | 0 | 8 | 98 | 267 | 0 | 10 | 130 | 336 |

### ATLANTIC CENTRAL

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wesley | 3 | 0 | 122 | 27 | 9 | 2 | 386 | 165 |
| Salisbury | 2 | 1 | 124 | 67 | 9 | 2 | 448 | 247 |
| Frostburg State | 1 | 2 | 40 | 100 | 3 | 6 | 169 | 278 |
| Apprentice School | 0 | 3 | 24 | 116 | 2 | 7 | 158 | 265 |

### CENTENNIAL

| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Muhlenberg | 7 | 1 | 274 | 123 | 9 | 2 | 339 | 178 |
| Johns Hopkins | 6 | 2 | 197 | 167 | 8 | 3 | 287 | 219 |
| Moravian | 6 | 2 | 213 | 145 | 8 | 3 | 280 | 196 |
| Dickinson | 5 | 3 | 234 | 183 | 6 | 4 | 289 | 218 |
| Gettysburg | 5 | 3 | 276 | 218 | 5 | 5 | 329 | 282 |
| Franklin & Marshall | 3 | 5 | 177 | 167 | 4 | 6 | 208 | 181 |
| Ursinus | 2 | 6 | 94 | 219 | 3 | 7 | 147 | 277 |
| McDaniel | 1 | 7 | 65 | 227 | 2 | 8 | 110 | 265 |
| Juniata | 1 | 7 | 114 | 195 | 1 | 9 | 135 | 239 |

# DIVISION III

| | CONFERENCE | | | | OVERALL | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
| **COLLEGE CONFERENCE OF ILLINOIS & WISCONSIN** | | | | | | | | |
| North Central (Ill.) | 7 | 0 | 247 | 136 | 11 | 1 | 425 | 216 |
| Wheaton (Ill.) | 5 | 2 | 258 | 172 | 11 | 3 | 505 | 290 |
| Augustana | 5 | 2 | 231 | 115 | 7 | 3 | 291 | 134 |
| Elmhurst | 4 | 3 | 190 | 203 | 7 | 3 | 283 | 237 |
| Illinois Wesleyan | 3 | 4 | 174 | 166 | 6 | 4 | 281 | 253 |
| Carthage | 3 | 4 | 181 | 204 | 5 | 5 | 305 | 307 |
| Millikin | 1 | 6 | 110 | 200 | 3 | 7 | 192 | 264 |
| North Park | 0 | 7 | 119 | 314 | 1 | 9 | 175 | 389 |
| **EMPIRE EIGHT** | | | | | | | | |
| Ithaca | 5 | 1 | 238 | 135 | 9 | 2 | 400 | 242 |
| Hartwick | 4 | 2 | 201 | 194 | 7 | 3 | 439 | 340 |
| Alfred | 4 | 2 | 176 | 124 | 7 | 4 | 318 | 223 |
| St. John Fisher | 4 | 2 | 198 | 124 | 7 | 4 | 314 | 246 |
| Utica | 2 | 4 | 92 | 154 | 3 | 7 | 172 | 246 |
| Springfield | 1 | 4 | 114 | 139 | 4 | 6 | 275 | 268 |
| Norwich | 0 | 5 | 49 | 198 | 2 | 8 | 165 | 320 |
| **HEARTLAND COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| Franklin | 7 | 0 | 296 | 106 | 11 | 2 | 524 | 317 |
| Rose-Hulman | 5 | 2 | 214 | 197 | 7 | 3 | 281 | 264 |
| Anderson | 4 | 3 | 193 | 174 | 5 | 5 | 274 | 267 |
| Defiance | 4 | 3 | 142 | 146 | 4 | 6 | 166 | 243 |
| Manchester | 3 | 4 | 163 | 157 | 5 | 5 | 258 | 226 |
| Mt. St. Joseph | 3 | 4 | 194 | 130 | 5 | 5 | 235 | 156 |
| Hanover | 2 | 5 | 169 | 255 | 2 | 7 | 223 | 335 |
| Bluffton | 0 | 7 | 73 | 279 | 1 | 9 | 103 | 377 |
| **IOWA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| Wartburg | 7 | 1 | 194 | 111 | 10 | 3 | 335 | 244 |
| Buena Vista | 6 | 2 | 146 | 123 | 7 | 3 | 231 | 144 |
| Simpson | 5 | 3 | 200 | 154 | 7 | 3 | 247 | 181 |
| Loras | 5 | 3 | 205 | 163 | 6 | 4 | 253 | 201 |
| Central | 4 | 4 | 152 | 167 | 4 | 6 | 226 | 179 |
| Luther | 4 | 4 | 119 | 122 | 5 | 5 | 164 | 145 |
| Coe | 4 | 4 | 171 | 160 | 4 | 6 | 196 | 208 |
| Dubuque | 1 | 7 | 128 | 206 | 2 | 8 | 186 | 259 |
| Cornell | 0 | 8 | 86 | 245 | 0 | 10 | 125 | 309 |
| **LIBERTY** | | | | | | | | |
| Hobart | 6 | 1 | 163 | 100 | 9 | 2 | 252 | 194 |
| Rensselaer | 5 | 2 | 204 | 115 | 8 | 2 | 298 | 163 |
| WPI | 4 | 3 | 140 | 177 | 7 | 3 | 252 | 222 |
| Union | 4 | 3 | 219 | 181 | 5 | 4 | 257 | 226 |
| Susquehanna | 3 | 4 | 231 | 231 | 4 | 6 | 271 | 289 |
| **LIBERTY** | | | | | | | | |
| Rochester | 3 | 4 | 144 | 145 | 3 | 7 | 181 | 250 |
| Merchant Marine | 2 | 5 | 119 | 194 | 3 | 7 | 166 | 262 |
| St. Lawrence | 1 | 6 | 138 | 215 | 1 | 9 | 151 | 296 |
| **MICHIGAN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION** | | | | | | | | |
| Trine | 6 | 0 | 172 | 102 | 10 | 1 | 319 | 182 |
| Adrian | 6 | 1 | 173 | 66 | 8 | 2 | 278 | 124 |
| Alma | 3 | 3 | 189 | 206 | 5 | 5 | 351 | 300 |
| Albion | 3 | 3 | 96 | 138 | 4 | 6 | 143 | 201 |
| Hope | 3 | 3 | 179 | 154 | 3 | 7 | 263 | 327 |
| Kalamazoo | 1 | 5 | 147 | 229 | 2 | 8 | 227 | 357 |
| Olivet | 0 | 6 | 90 | 151 | 1 | 9 | 180 | 241 |
| **MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES COLLEGIATE** | | | | | | | | |
| Delaware Valley | 5 | 2 | 177 | 119 | 8 | 3 | 278 | 202 |
| Albright | 5 | 2 | 131 | 108 | 8 | 3 | 248 | 186 |
| Lycoming | 5 | 2 | 145 | 131 | 7 | 4 | 238 | 214 |
| Lebanon Valley | 4 | 3 | 163 | 124 | 6 | 4 | 229 | 179 |
| Wilkes | 4 | 3 | 153 | 130 | 4 | 6 | 200 | 198 |
| Widener | 2 | 5 | 139 | 136 | 4 | 6 | 185 | 207 |
| King's | 2 | 5 | 72 | 137 | 3 | 7 | 140 | 210 |
| FDU-Florham | 1 | 6 | 96 | 191 | 3 | 7 | 175 | 274 |
| **MIDWEST** | | | | | | | | |
| Monmouth College | 9 | 0 | 467 | 111 | 11 | 1 | 561 | 171 |
| Ripon | 8 | 1 | 290 | 112 | 8 | 2 | 303 | 126 |
| St. Norbert | 7 | 2 | 357 | 164 | 7 | 3 | 377 | 208 |
| Carroll | 6 | 3 | 205 | 139 | 7 | 3 | 260 | 153 |
| Beloit | 4 | 5 | 186 | 230 | 5 | 5 | 213 | 247 |
| Illinois College | 4 | 5 | 288 | 334 | 4 | 6 | 308 | 372 |
| Lake Forest | 3 | 6 | 137 | 275 | 3 | 7 | 150 | 310 |
| Knox | 2 | 7 | 154 | 333 | 3 | 7 | 180 | 333 |
| Grinnell | 2 | 7 | 121 | 334 | 3 | 7 | 147 | 359 |
| Lawrence | 0 | 9 | 123 | 296 | 1 | 9 | 144 | 309 |
| **MINNESOTA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| St. John's | 6 | 2 | 160 | 101 | 8 | 3 | 218 | 159 |
| Carleton | 5 | 3 | 226 | 194 | 7 | 3 | 297 | 221 |
| St. Thomas | 5 | 3 | 189 | 170 | 7 | 3 | 265 | 180 |
| Concordia-Moorhead | 5 | 3 | 184 | 152 | 6 | 4 | 243 | 200 |
| Gustavus Adolphus | 4 | 4 | 182 | 199 | 6 | 4 | 233 | 232 |
| St. Olaf | 4 | 4 | 164 | 199 | 6 | 4 | 204 | 213 |
| Bethel | 4 | 4 | 131 | 117 | 5 | 5 | 176 | 137 |
| Augsburg | 3 | 5 | 206 | 239 | 5 | 5 | 285 | 277 |
| Hamline | 0 | 8 | 124 | 195 | 2 | 8 | 195 | 215 |
| **NEW ENGLAND FOOTBALL** | | | | | | | | |
| **BOGAN** | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgewater State | 6 | 1 | 265 | 139 | 7 | 3 | 348 | 213 |
| Maine Maritime | 6 | 1 | 290 | 164 | 7 | 4 | 419 | 321 |
| Westfield State | 4 | 3 | 201 | 117 | 6 | 4 | 253 | 190 |
| Fitchburg State | 4 | 3 | 245 | 263 | 4 | 6 | 323 | 404 |
| Framingham State | 3 | 4 | 155 | 2222 | 5 | 5 | 228 | 306 |
| Coast Guard | 3 | 4 | 156 | 182 | 3 | 6 | 170 | 242 |
| Worcester State | 2 | 5 | 151 | 227 | 2 | 8 | 207 | 319 |
| Massachusetts Maritime | 0 | 7 | 78 | 227 | 0 | 10 | 123 | 313 |
| **BOYD** | | | | | | | | |
| Plymouth State | 7 | 0 | 231 | 91 | 10 | 2 | 360 | 197 |
| Curry | 6 | 1 | 268 | 136 | 10 | 2 | 405 | 270 |
| UMass-Dartmouth | 4 | 3 | 239 | 218 | 6 | 4 | 344 | 347 |
| MIT | 3 | 4 | 204 | 252 | 5 | 5 | 326 | 347 |
| Salve Regina | 3 | 4 | 142 | 173 | 4 | 5 | 206 | 229 |
| Western New England | 3 | 4 | 163 | 221 | 3 | 7 | 256 | 349 |
| Endicott | 2 | 5 | 179 | 220 | 3 | 7 | 226 | 298 |
| Nichols | 0 | 7 | 139 | 254 | 2 | 8 | 208 | 298 |
| **NEW ENGLAND SMALL COLLEGE** | | | | | | | | |
| Trinity (Conn.) | 8 | 0 | 227 | 140 | 8 | 0 | 227 | 140 |
| Williams | 6 | 2 | 215 | 140 | 6 | 2 | 215 | 140 |
| Amherst | 5 | 3 | 175 | 144 | 5 | 3 | 175 | 144 |
| Middlebury | 5 | 3 | 275 | 216 | 5 | 3 | 275 | 216 |
| Bowdoin | 4 | 4 | 205 | 197 | 4 | 4 | 205 | 197 |
| Tufts | 4 | 4 | 182 | 156 | 4 | 4 | 182 | 156 |
| Colby | 3 | 5 | 92 | 158 | 3 | 5 | 92 | 158 |
| Bates | 2 | 6 | 118 | 249 | 2 | 6 | 118 | 249 |
| Hamilton | 2 | 6 | 136 | 158 | 2 | 6 | 136 | 158 |
| Wesleyan | 1 | 7 | 111 | 178 | 1 | 7 | 111 | 178 |
| **NEW JERSEY ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| SUNY-Cortland | 9 | 0 | 313 | 178 | 11 | 2 | 413 | 268 |
| Montclair State | 7 | 2 | 204 | 134 | 8 | 3 | 231 | 182 |
| Rowan | 7 | 2 | 309 | 165 | 8 | 2 | 333 | 179 |
| College at Brockport | 6 | 3 | 289 | 244 | 7 | 4 | 373 | 339 |
| Kean | 6 | 3 | 294 | 249 | 7 | 4 | 341 | 255 |
| College of New Jersey | 4 | 5 | 230 | 257 | 4 | 6 | 271 | 299 |
| William Paterson | 3 | 6 | 197 | 227 | 4 | 6 | 218 | 240 |
| Western Connecticut | 2 | 7 | 186 | 274 | 2 | 8 | 213 | 304 |
| Buffalo State | 1 | 8 | 218 | 324 | 1 | 9 | 225 | 344 |
| Morrisville State | 0 | 9 | 176 | 374 | 1 | 9 | 215 | 382 |
| **NORTH COAST ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| Wabash | 7 | 0 | 325 | 88 | 10 | 2 | 473 | 219 |
| Wooster | 6 | 1 | 170 | 105 | 8 | 2 | 242 | 152 |
| Wittenberg | 4 | 3 | 187 | 90 | 6 | 4 | 257 | 144 |
| Denison | 4 | 3 | 127 | 125 | 6 | 4 | 216 | 211 |
| Allegheny | 4 | 3 | 129 | 165 | 5 | 5 | 179 | 230 |
| Earlham | 4 | 3 | 205 | 199 | 4 | 6 | 261 | 328 |
| **NORTH COAST ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| Hiram | 2 | 5 | 141 | 276 | 3 | 7 | 181 | 381 |
| Oberlin | 2 | 5 | 128 | 238 | 2 | 8 | 191 | 368 |
| Ohio Wesleyan | 2 | 5 | 86 | 119 | 2 | 8 | 103 | 213 |
| Kenyon | 0 | 7 | 159 | 252 | 1 | 9 | 237 | 373 |
| **NORTHERN ATHLETICS** | | | | | | | | |
| Aurora | 7 | 0 | 263 | 62 | 9 | 2 | 369 | 166 |
| Concordia (Wis.) | 5 | 2 | 207 | 133 | 5 | 5 | 230 | 253 |
| Lakland | 5 | 2 | 189 | 115 | 5 | 5 | 210 | 203 |
| Benedictine | 4 | 3 | 151 | 126 | 4 | 6 | 184 | 245 |
| Wisconsin Lutheran | 3 | 4 | 123 | 162 | 4 | 6 | 173 | 243 |
| Concordia (Chicago) | 2 | 5 | 161 | 284 | 3 | 7 | 210 | 386 |
| Rockford | 2 | 5 | 146 | 181 | 2 | 8 | 188 | 306 |
| Maranatha Baptist | 0 | 7 | 67 | 244 | 0 | 10 | 95 | 332 |
| **NORTHWEST** | | | | | | | | |
| Willamette | 6 | 0 | 282 | 109 | 11 | 1 | 498 | 233 |
| Linfield | 5 | 1 | 200 | 111 | 6 | 3 | 245 | 164 |
| Whitworth | 4 | 2 | 204 | 140 | 6 | 3 | 274 | 226 |
| Pacific Lutheran | 3 | 3 | 136 | 185 | 3 | 6 | 157 | 242 |
| Menlo | 2 | 4 | 155 | 156 | 3 | 7 | 237 | 258 |
| Puget Sound | 1 | 5 | 151 | 179 | 3 | 6 | 229 | 274 |
| Lewis & Clark | 0 | 6 | 72 | 320 | 1 | 8 | 167 | 430 |
| **OHIO ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| Mount Union | 9 | 0 | 435 | 57 | 15 | 0 | 683 | 131 |
| Otterbein | 8 | 1 | 342 | 145 | 9 | 2 | 427 | 214 |
| Baldwin-Wallace | 5 | 4 | 221 | 201 | 5 | 5 | 256 | 243 |
| Ohio Northern | 5 | 4 | 192 | 167 | 5 | 5 | 195 | 187 |
| Capital | 4 | 5 | 206 | 214 | 5 | 5 | 240 | 228 |
| John Carroll | 4 | 5 | 161 | 159 | 5 | 5 | 202 | 173 |
| Wilmington | 4 | 5 | 171 | 256 | 4 | 6 | 178 | 277 |
| Heidelberg | 3 | 6 | 190 | 335 | 4 | 6 | 252 | 362 |
| Muskingum | 2 | 7 | 170 | 315 | 3 | 7 | 205 | 325 |
| Marietta | 1 | 8 | 105 | 344 | 2 | 8 | 126 | 362 |
| **OLD DOMINION ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| Catholic | 4 | 2 | 214 | 176 | 9 | 2 | 346 | 240 |
| Hampden-Sydney | 4 | 2 | 170 | 141 | 8 | 2 | 308 | 244 |
| Emory & Henry | 4 | 2 | 127 | 100 | 6 | 4 | 209 | 159 |
| Randolph-Macon | 4 | 2 | 184 | 135 | 6 | 5 | 279 | 297 |
| Bridgewater (Va.) | 3 | 3 | 162 | 161 | 4 | 6 | 233 | 239 |
| Guilford | 1 | 5 | 133 | 237 | 4 | 6 | 260 | 344 |
| Washington & Lee | 1 | 5 | 146 | 186 | 4 | 6 | 236 | 273 |
| **PRESIDENTS' ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| Thomas More | 6 | 0 | 222 | 105 | 8 | 3 | 325 | 214 |
| Washington & Jefferson | 5 | 1 | 242 | 103 | 11 | 2 | 532 | 305 |
| Grove City | 3 | 3 | 140 | 176 | 6 | 4 | 231 | 245 |
| Westminster (Pa.) | 3 | 3 | 129 | 202 | 5 | 5 | 219 | 319 |
| Waynesburg | 2 | 4 | 191 | 191 | 5 | 5 | 286 | 290 |
| Bethany | 1 | 5 | 172 | 257 | 3 | 7 | 280 | 368 |
| Thiel | 1 | 5 | 147 | 209 | 2 | 8 | 218 | 299 |

KIM KLEMENT / US PRESSWIRE

## BCS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

**FIESTA BOWL**
Texas 24, Ohio State 21

**ORANGE BOWL**
Virginia Tech 20, Cincinnati 7

**ROSE BOWL**
USC 38, Penn State 24

**SUGAR BOWL**
Utah 31, Alabama 17

## 2008 BOWL GAMES RECAP

| | |
|---|---|
| Alamo Bowl | Missouri 30, Northwestern 23 |
| Armed Forces Bowl | Houston 34, Air Force 28 |
| Capital One Bowl | Georgia 24, Michigan State 12 |
| Champs Sports Bowl | Florida State 42, Wisconsin 13 |
| Chick-fil-A Bowl | LSU 38, Georgia Tech 3 |
| Cotton Bowl | Ole Miss 47, Texas Tech 34 |
| EagleBank Bowl | Wake Forest 29, Navy 19 |
| Emerald Bowl | California 24, Miami 17 |
| Gator Bowl | Nebraska 26, Clemson 21 |
| GMAC Bowl | Tulsa 45, Ball State 13 |
| Hawaii Bowl | Notre Dame 49, Hawaii 21 |
| Holiday Bowl | Oregon 42, Oklahoma State 31 |
| Humanitarian Bowl | Maryland 42, Nevada 35 |
| Independence Bowl | Louisiana Tech 17, Northern Illinois 10 |
| International Bowl | Connecticut 38, Buffalo 20 |
| Insight Bowl | Kansas 42, Minnesota 21 |
| Las Vegas Bowl | Arizona 31, BYU 21 |
| Liberty Bowl | Kentucky 25, East Carolina 19 |
| Meineke Car Care Bowl | West Virginia 31, North Carolina 30 |
| Motor City Bowl | Florida Atlantic 24, Central Michigan 21 |
| Music City Bowl | Vanderbilt 16, Boston College 14 |
| New Mexico Bowl | Colorado State 40, Fresno State 35 |
| New Orleans Bowl | Southern Miss 30, Troy 27 (OT) |
| Outback Bowl | Iowa 31, South Carolina 10 |
| Papajohns.com Bowl | Rutgers 29, NC State 23 |
| Poinsettia Bowl | TCU 17, Boise State 16 |
| St. Petersburg Bowl | USF 41, Memphis 14 |
| Sun Bowl | Oregon State 3, Pittsburgh 0 |
| Texas Bowl | Rice 38, Western Michigan 14 |

## DIVISION III

| | CONFERENCE | | | | OVERALL | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
| **ST. LOUIS INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| LaGrange | 7 | 0 | 316 | 105 | 9 | 2 | 437 | 229 |
| Huntingdon | 6 | 1 | 321 | 78 | 8 | 2 | 417 | 158 |
| Greenville | 5 | 2 | 238 | 144 | 6 | 4 | 263 | 211 |
| Westminster (Mo.) | 4 | 3 | 238 | 171 | 4 | 5 | 265 | 242 |
| MacMurray | 3 | 4 | 180 | 238 | 4 | 6 | 259 | 321 |
| Eureka | 2 | 5 | 177 | 295 | 3 | 6 | 205 | 329 |
| Blackburn | 1 | 6 | 57 | 224 | 2 | 8 | 106 | 327 |
| Principia | 0 | 7 | 44 | 316 | 0 | 10 | 57 | 443 |
| **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| Occidental | 6 | 0 | 242 | 110 | 9 | 1 | 385 | 214 |
| Cal Lutheran | 5 | 1 | 181 | 78 | 7 | 2 | 230 | 123 |
| Redlands | 4 | 2 | 222 | 87 | 7 | 2 | 327 | 110 |
| Claremont-Mudd-Scripps | 3 | 3 | 107 | 135 | 4 | 5 | 183 | 207 |
| La Verne | 2 | 4 | 120 | 216 | 2 | 7 | 147 | 315 |
| Pomona-Pitzer | 1 | 5 | 145 | 258 | 2 | 7 | 217 | 347 |
| Whittier | 0 | 6 | 97 | 230 | 1 | 8 | 182 | 309 |
| **SOUTHERN COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| Millsaps | 7 | 0 | 335 | 98 | 11 | 1 | 513 | 193 |
| DePauw | 5 | 2 | 195 | 208 | 8 | 2 | 314 | 260 |
| Trinity (Texas) | 5 | 2 | 206 | 151 | 8 | 2 | 326 | 189 |
| Centre | 5 | 2 | 159 | 145 | 7 | 3 | 247 | 193 |
| Austin | 3 | 4 | 152 | 185 | 5 | 5 | 235 | 244 |
| Rhodes | 2 | 5 | 88 | 141 | 4 | 6 | 154 | 172 |
| Sewanee | 1 | 6 | 107 | 170 | 2 | 8 | 145 | 257 |
| Colorado College | 0 | 7 | 81 | 225 | 0 | 9 | 98 | 297 |
| **UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION** | | | | | | | | |
| Case Western Reserve | 3 | 0 | 93 | 37 | 10 | 1 | 416 | 153 |
| Carnegie Mellon | 1 | 2 | 49 | 76 | 5 | 5 | 229 | 175 |
| Washington (Mo.) | 1 | 2 | 62 | 80 | 5 | 5 | 186 | 1888 |
| Chicago | 1 | 2 | 30 | 42 | 3 | 6 | 182 | 234 |
| **UPPER MIDWEST ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| Northwestern College | 4 | 0 | 146 | 72 | 9 | 2 | 378 | 227 |
| Martin Luther | 2 | 2 | 129 | 113 | 7 | 3 | 383 | 225 |
| Crown | 2 | 2 | 154 | 107 | 5 | 4 | 283 | 243 |
| Minnesota-Morris | 1 | 3 | 63 | 98 | 3 | 6 | 133 | 184 |
| St. Scholastica | 0 | 4 | 54 | 156 | 1 | 7 | 193 | 304 |
| **USA SOUTH ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| Christopher Newport | 7 | 0 | 192 | 108 | 8 | 2 | 263 | 201 |
| Ferrum | 5 | 2 | 169 | 119 | 7 | 3 | 245 | 166 |
| N.C. Wesleyan | 5 | 2 | 264 | 133 | 6 | 4 | 310 | 189 |
| Averett | 4 | 3 | 158 | 167 | 5 | 5 | 225 | 256 |
| Maryville (Tenn.) | 4 | 3 | 173 | 142 | 5 | 5 | 242 | 238 |
| Shenandoah | 2 | 5 | 153 | 170 | 3 | 7 | 190 | 216 |
| Methodist | 1 | 6 | 86 | 220 | 2 | 8 | 158 | 303 |
| Greensboro | 0 | 7 | 85 | 221 | 2 | 8 | 145 | 255 |
| **WISCONSIN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| Wis.-Whitewater | 6 | 1 | 228 | 81 | 13 | 2 | 518 | 202 |
| Wis.-Stevens Point | 6 | 1 | 145 | 121 | 9 | 2 | 244 | 184 |

| | CONFERENCE | | | | OVERALL | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
| **WISCONSIN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC** | | | | | | | | |
| Wis-Eau Claire | 4 | 3 | 159 | 101 | 6 | 4 | 208 | 153 |
| Wis.-Stout | 3 | 4 | 133 | 126 | 5 | 5 | 207 | 180 |
| Wis.-La Crosse | 3 | 4 | 163 | 145 | 3 | 7 | 203 | 227 |
| Wis.-Oshkosh | 2 | 5 | 65 | 194 | 4 | 5 | 96 | 223 |
| Wis.-Platteville | 2 | 5 | 95 | 158 | 4 | 6 | 146 | 215 |
| Wis.-River Falls | 2 | 5 | 137 | 199 | 3 | 7 | 202 | 282 |
| **INDEPENDENTS** | | | | | | | | |
| Husson | | | | | 7 | 3 | 281 | 190 |
| Chapman | | | | | 5 | 4 | 214 | 160 |
| Geneva | | | | | 5 | 5 | 236 | 288 |
| SUNY-Maritime | | | | | 4 | 5 | 211 | 266 |
| Macalester | | | | | 4 | 6 | 160 | 263 |
| Mount Ida | | | | | 4 | 6 | 237 | 291 |
| Birmingham-Southern | | | | | 3 | 7 | 220 | 275 |
| Becker | | | | | 2 | 7 | 119 | 200 |
| Gallaudet | | | | | 2 | 8 | 71 | 166 |
| St. Vincent | | | | | 1 | 9 | 160 | 367 |

## NAIA

| | CONFERENCE | | | | OVERALL | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
| **CENTRAL STATES FOOTBALL LEAGUE** | | | | | | | | |
| Langston | 5 | 0 | 154 | 46 | 10 | 3 | 324 | 214 |
| Bacone (Okla.) | 3 | 1 | 65 | 26 | 7 | 4 | 253 | 293 |
| Northwestern Okla. St. | 1 | 3 | 166 | 83 | 7 | 4 | 398 | 183 |
| S. Nazarene (Okla.) | 1 | 3 | 83 | 116 | 3 | 8 | 227 | 295 |
| Texas College | 1 | 3 | 65 | 128 | 2 | 8 | 149 | 219 |
| SW Assem. of God (Texas) | 0 | 1 | 7 | 41 | 4 | 5 | 181 | 245 |
| **DAKOTA ATHLETIC CONFERENCE** | | | | | | | | |
| Dickinson State (N.D.) | 7 | 0 | 181 | 103 | 7 | 4 | 252 | 238 |
| Jamestown (N.D.) | 5 | 2 | 250 | 165 | 7 | 3 | 334 | 243 |
| Minot State (N.D.) | 5 | 2 | 223 | 176 | 6 | 4 | 288 | 279 |
| Black Hills State (N.D.) | 4 | 3 | 196 | 138 | 6 | 4 | 257 | 175 |
| South Dakota Mines | 3 | 4 | 168 | 158 | 5 | 5 | 313 | 198 |
| Valley City State (N.D.) | 3 | 4 | 241 | 193 | 5 | 5 | 329 | 264 |
| Dakota State (S.D.) | 1 | 6 | 127 | 215 | 3 | 7 | 227 | 286 |
| Mayville State (S.D.) | 0 | 7 | 57 | 295 | 1 | 9 | 94 | 355 |
| **FRONTIER CONFERENCE** | | | | | | | | |
| Carroll (Mont.) | 10 | 0 | 332 | 100 | 13 | 1 | 453 | 200 |
| Mont. St.-Northern | 7 | 3 | 233 | 196 | 7 | 3 | 233 | 196 |
| Eastern Oregon | 4 | 6 | 283 | 320 | 5 | 6 | 310 | 330 |
| Montana Tech | 4 | 6 | 163 | 218 | 4 | 7 | 188 | 248 |
| Rocky Mountain (Mont.) | 3 | 7 | 270 | 375 | 4 | 7 | 304 | 394 |
| Montana-Western | 2 | 8 | 232 | 304 | 2 | 9 | 238 | 366 |
| **GREAT PLAINS ATHLETIC CONFERENCE** | | | | | | | | |
| Sioux Falls (N.D.) | 10 | 0 | 386 | 57 | 14 | 0 | 511 | 83 |
| Morningside (Iowa) | 9 | 1 | 480 | 124 | 10 | 2 | 576 | 185 |

## NAIA

| | CONFERENCE | | | | OVERALL | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
| Northwestern (Iowa) | 7 | 3 | 288 | 112 | 7 | 3 | 288 | 112 |
| Dakota Wesleyan (S.D.) | 7 | 3 | 257 | 155 | 7 | 3 | 257 | 155 |
| Nebraska Wesleyan | 7 | 3 | 200 | 112 | 7 | 3 | 200 | 112 |
| Hastings (Neb.) | 6 | 4 | 210 | 194 | 7 | 4 | 236 | 194 |
| Midland Lutheran (Neb.) | 5 | 5 | 200 | 156 | 6 | 5 | 248 | 193 |
| Doane (Neb.) | 3 | 7 | 188 | 239 | 4 | 7 | 203 | 251 |
| Dana (Neb.) | 2 | 8 | 109 | 369 | 3 | 8 | 151 | 383 |
| Briar Cliff (Iowa) | 2 | 8 | 102 | 294 | 2 | 9 | 119 | 314 |
| Concordia (Neb.) | 1 | 9 | 77 | 345 | 1 | 9 | 77 | 345 |
| **HEART OF AMERICA ATHLETIC CONFERENCE** | | | | | | | | |
| MidAmerica Nazarene | 10 | 0 | 401 | 183 | 10 | 1 | 415 | 203 |
| Lindenwood (Mo.) | 9 | 1 | 385 | 153 | 11 | 2 | 521 | 270 |
| Baker (Kan.) | 8 | 2 | 370 | 176 | 8 | 4 | 397 | 297 |
| Missouri Valley | 7 | 3 | 365 | 165 | 7 | 3 | 365 | 165 |
| Benedictine (Kan.) | 6 | 4 | 284 | 190 | 7 | 4 | 320 | 203 |
| Evangel (Mo.) | 4 | 6 | 171 | 282 | 4 | 7 | 178 | 323 |
| William Jewell (Mo.) | 4 | 6 | 195 | 260 | 4 | 7 | 207 | 275 |
| Central Methodist (Mo.) | 3 | 7 | 170 | 248 | 3 | 8 | 189 | 295 |
| Avila (Mo.) | 2 | 8 | 91 | 285 | 3 | 8 | 115 | 292 |
| Graceland (Iowa) | 2 | 8 | 93 | 301 | 2 | 8 | 93 | 301 |
| Culver-Stockton (Mo.) | 0 | 10 | 117 | 399 | 0 | 11 | 124 | 469 |
| **KANSAS COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE** | | | | | | | | |
| Friends | 9 | 0 | 414 | 140 | 10 | 1 | 452 | 191 |
| Ottawa | 7 | 2 | 357 | 163 | 8 | 2 | 380 | 166 |
| Sterling | 7 | 2 | 292 | 149 | 7 | 3 | 306 | 187 |
| Kansas Weslyn | 5 | 4 | 269 | 176 | 6 | 4 | 321 | 189 |
| Bethel | 5 | 4 | 205 | 183 | 6 | 4 | 230 | 207 |
| Saint Mary | 4 | 5 | 267 | 317 | 5 | 5 | 304 | 323 |
| McPherson | 3 | 6 | 215 | 256 | 4 | 6 | 258 | 270 |
| Bethany | 2 | 7 | 124 | 278 | 2 | 8 | 130 | 361 |
| Tabor | 2 | 7 | 172 | 403 | 2 | 8 | 187 | 434 |
| Southwestern | 1 | 8 | 103 | 353 | 1 | 9 | 106 | 402 |
| **MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE** | | | | | | | | |
| **EAST** | | | | | | | | |
| Cumberlands (Ky.) | 9 | 0 | 335 | 202 | 10 | 2 | 418 | 298 |
| Union (Ky.) | 7 | 2 | 308 | 233 | 9 | 3 | 369 | 332 |
| Virgiana-Wise | 5 | 3 | 310 | 266 | 8 | 3 | 455 | 290 |
| Georgetown (Ky.) | 4 | 4 | 286 | 227 | 5 | 5 | 361 | 279 |
| Campbellsville (Ky.) | 3 | 7 | 315 | 380 | 3 | 8 | 329 | 430 |
| Pikeville (Ky.) | 1 | 8 | 129 | 338 | 2 | 9 | 166 | 372 |
| West Virginia Tech | 0 | 8 | 186 | 342 | 0 | 11 | 233 | 447 |
| **WEST** | | | | | | | | |
| Shorter (Ga.) | 6 | 2 | 223 | 155 | 9 | 3 | 330 | 234 |
| Lambuth (Tenn.) | 7 | 2 | 391 | 219 | 8 | 4 | 522 | 356 |
| Cumberland (Tenn.) | 4 | 4 | 256 | 274 | 6 | 5 | 351 | 338 |
| Bethel (Tenn.) | 3 | 4 | 193 | 169 | 4 | 6 | 255 | 209 |
| Belhaven (Miss.) | 1 | 6 | 146 | 273 | 2 | 9 | 240 | 407 |
| Faulkner (Ala.) | 0 | 5 | 138 | 339 | 2 | 9 | 145 | 422 |
| **MID-STATES FOOTBALL ASSOC.-MIDEAST** | | | | | | | | |
| St. Francis (Ind.) | 6 | 0 | 297 | 87 | 12 | 1 | 585 | 168 |
| Ohio Dominican | 4 | 2 | 166 | 111 | 7 | 3 | 347 | 142 |
| Saint Xavier (Ill.) | 4 | 2 | 175 | 120 | 7 | 4 | 357 | 178 |

| | CONFERENCE | | | | OVERALL | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | W | L | PF | PA | W | L | PF | PA |
| Malone (Ohio) | 4 | 2 | 186 | 177 | 6 | 4 | 323 | 270 |
| Marian (Ind.) College | 2 | 4 | 134 | 285 | 7 | 4 | 276 | 379 |
| Walsh (Ohio) | 1 | 5 | 117 | 174 | 3 | 8 | 234 | 276 |
| Taylor (Ind.) | 0 | 6 | 85 | 206 | 2 | 8 | 156 | 276 |
| **MID-STATES FOOTBALL ASSOC.-MIDWEST** | | | | | | | | |
| St. Ambrose (Iowa) | 6 | 1 | 209 | 95 | 8 | 4 | 299 | 238 |
| William Penn (Iowa) | 5 | 2 | 215 | 188 | 7 | 4 | 283 | 265 |
| McKendree (Ill.) | 5 | 2 | 183 | 63 | 6 | 4 | 223 | 167 |
| Quincy (Ill.) | 5 | 2 | 192 | 153 | 6 | 5 | 225 | 313 |
| Saint Francis (Ill.) | 3 | 4 | 145 | 141 | 7 | 4 | 254 | 212 |
| Olivet Nazarene (Ill.) | 3 | 4 | 140 | 152 | 4 | 7 | 196 | 306 |
| Iowa Wesleyan | 1 | 6 | 93 | 240 | 3 | 8 | 197 | 330 |
| Trinity Int'l (Ill.) | 0 | 7 | 67 | 212 | 1 | 10 | 92 | 376 |
| **INDEPENDENTS** | | | | | | | | |
| Peru St. (Neb.) | | | | | 4 | 6 | 245 | 298 |
| Southern Oregon | | | | | 3 | 7 | 159 | 253 |
| Southern Virginia | | | | | 3 | 7 | 250 | 370 |
| Edward Waters | | | | | 3 | 8 | 256 | 332 |
| Webber International (Fla.) | | | | | 3 | 8 | 133 | 296 |
| Azusa Pacific (Calif.) | | | | | 2 | 8 | 160 | 301 |
| Grand View (Iowa) | | | | | 2 | 8 | 256 | 332 |
| Haskell Indian Nations (Kan.) | | | | | 2 | 9 | 195 | 472 |
| Kentucky Christian | | | | | 1 | 9 | 123 | 343 |
| Waldorf (Iowa) | | | | | 1 | 10 | 82 | 419 |

### FBS COACHING CHANGES FOR 2009

| SCHOOL | FORMER COACH | NEW COACH |
|---|---|---|
| AUBURN | Tommy Tuberville | Gene Chizik |
| ARMY | Stan Brock | Rich Ellerson |
| BALL STATE | Brady Hoke | Stan Parrish |
| BOSTON COLLEGE | Jeff Jagodzinski | Frank Spaziani |
| BOWLING GREEN | Gregg Brandon | Dave Clawson |
| CLEMSON | Tommy Bowden | Dabo Swinney |
| EASTERN MICHIGAN | Jeff Genyk | Ron English |
| IOWA STATE | Gene Chizik | Paul Rhodes |
| KANSAS STATE | Ron Prince | Bill Snyder |
| MIAMI (OHIO) | Shane Montgomery | Mike Haywood |
| MISSISSIPPI STATE | Sylvester Croom | Dan Mullen |
| NEW MEXICO | Rocky Long | Mike Locksley |
| NEW MEXICO STATE | Hal Mumme | DeWayne Walker |
| OREGON | Mike Ballotti | Chip Kelly |
| PURDUE | Joe Tiller | Danny Hope |
| SAN DIEGO STATE | Chuck Long | Brady Hoke |
| SYRACUSE | Greg Robinson | Doug Marrone |
| TENNESSEE | Phil Fulmer | Lane Kiffin |
| TOLEDO | Tom Amstutz | Tim Beckman |
| UTAH STATE | Brent Guy | Gary Andersen |
| WASHINGTON | Tyrone Willingham | Steve Sarkisian |
| WYOMING | Joe Glenn | Dave Christensen |

## FCS PLAYOFFS

**FIRST ROUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| James Madison 38 | Wofford 35 |
| Villanova 55 | Colgate 28 |
| Montana 31 | Texas State 13 |
| Weber State 49 | Cal Poly 35 |
| Appalachian State 37 | South Carolina State 21 |
| Richmond 38 | Eastern Kentucky 10 |
| Northern Iowa 40 | Maine 15 |
| New Hampshire 29 | Southern Illinois 20 |

**QUARTERFINALS**

| | |
|---|---|
| James Madison 31 | Villanova 27 |
| Montana 24 | Weber State 13 |
| Richmond 33 | Appalachian State 13 |
| Northern Iowa 36 | New Hampshire 34 |

**SEMIFINALS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Montana 35 | James Madison 27 |
| Richmond 21 | Northern Iowa 20 |

**CHAMPIONSHIP**

| | |
|---|---|
| Richmond 24 | Montana 7 |

## NAIA PLAYOFFS

**FIRST ROUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| Carroll (Mont.) 35 | Dickinson State (N.D.) 18 |
| Sioux Falls (S.D.) 28 | St. Ambrose (Iowa) 0 |
| Saint Francis (Ind.) 58 | Union (KY.) 3 |
| Langston (Okla.) 20 | MidAmerica Nazarene (Kan.) 14 |
| *Northwestern Oklahoma St. 42 | Friends (Kan.) 7 |
| Morningside (Iowa) 65 | Baker (Kan.) 27 |
| Lindenwood (Mo.) 65 | Lambuth (Tenn.) 48 |
| Cumberlands (Ky.) 31 | Shorter (Ga.) 7 |

**QUARTERFINALS**

*Carroll advances to semifinals*

| | |
|---|---|
| Sioux Falls 50 | Langston 13 |
| Saint Francis 31 | Cumberlands 20 |
| Lindenwood 34 | Morningside 31 |

**SEMIFINALS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Carroll 38 | Lindenwood 37 |
| Sioux Falls 24 | St. Francis 6 |

**CHAMPIONSHIP**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sioux Falls 23 | Carroll 7 |

*Northwestern Oklahoma State vacated position due to use of ineligible players.*

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## DIVISION II PLAYOFFS

**FIRST ROUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| Tusculum 34 | Albany State 22 |
| Valdosta State 24 | Carson-Newman 20 |
| West Texas A&M 49 | Central Washington 42 |
| Pittsburg State 33 | Nebraska-Omaha 21 |
| West Chester 52 | Southern Connecticut 32 |
| Seton Hall 14 | American International 7 |
| Ashland 27 | Minnesota-St. Makato 16 |
| Chadron State 23 | Wayne State (Neb.) 17 |

**SECOND ROUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| Delta State 27 | Tusculum 19 |
| North Alabama 37 | Valdosta State 10 |
| Abilene Christian 93 | West Texas A&M 68 |
| Northwest Missouri State 38 | Pittsburgh State 35 |
| Bloomsburg 28 | West Chester 21 |
| California (Pa.) 48 | Seton Hall 7 |

**SECOND ROUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| Grand Valley State 40 | Ashland 7 |
| Minnesota-Duluth 20 | Chadron State 20 |

**QUARTERFINALS**

| | |
|---|---|
| North Alabama 55 | Delta State 34 |
| Northwest Missouri State 45 | Abilene Christian 36 |
| California (Pa.) 28 | Bloomsburg 24 |
| Minnesota-Duluth 19 | Grand Valley State 13 |

**SEMIFINALS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Northwest Missouri State 41 | North Alabama 7 |
| Minnesota-Duluth 45 | California (Pa.) 7 |

**CHAMPIONSHIP**

| | |
|---|---|
| Minnesota-Duluth 21 | Northwest Missouri St. 14 |

## DIVISION III PLAYOFFS

**FIRST ROUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mount Union 56 | Randolph-Macon 0 |
| Hobart 33 | Lycoming 15 |
| Courtland State 31 | Plymouth State 14 |
| Curry 26 | Ithaca 21 |
| North Central (Ill.) 44 | Thomas More 23 |
| Franklin 62 | Otterbein 45 |
| Wabash 20 | Case Reserve 17 |
| Wheaton (Ill.) 14 | Trine 0 |
| Williamette 48 | Occidental 33 |
| Wis.-Whitewater 37 | St. John's (Minn.) 7 |
| Wartburg 26 | Wis.-Stevens Point 21 |
| Monmouth (Ill.) 42 | Aurora 13 |
| Millsaps 51 | LaGrange 26 |
| Washington & Jefferson 35 | Christopher Newport 29 |
| Wesley 20 | Muhlenberg 0 |
| Mary Hardin-Baylor 38 | Hardin-Simmons 35 |

**SECOND ROUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mount Union 42 | Hobart 7 |
| Cortland State 42 | Curry 0 |
| Franklin 38 | North Central (Ill.) 28 |
| Wheaton (Ill.) 59 | Wabash 28 |
| Wis.-Whitewater 30 | Williamette 27 |
| Wartburg 30 | Monmouth (Ill.) 28 |
| Washington & Jefferson 35 | Millsaps 20 |
| Mary Hardin-Baylor 46 | Wesley 14 |

**QUARTERFINALS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mount Union 41 | Corland State 14 |
| Wheaton (Ill.) 48 | Franklin 28 |
| Wis.-Whitewater 34 | Wartburg 17 |
| Mary Hardin-Baylor 63 | Washington & Jefferson 7 |

**SEMIFINALS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mount Union 45 | Wheaton (Ill.) 24 |
| Wis.-Whitewater 39 | Mary Hardin-Baylor 13 |

**CHAMPIONSHIP**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mount Union 31 | Wis.-Whitewater 26 |

—compiled by STATS INC. STATS *bowl games not included in 2008 records

## AIR FORCE
*Air Force Academy, CO*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Nicholls State | |
| S.12 | @MINNESOTA | |
| S.19 | @NEW MEXICO | 23-10 |
| S.26 | San Diego State | 35-10 |
| O.3 | @NAVY | 27-33 |
| O.10 | TCU | 10-44 |
| O.17 | Wyoming | 23-3 |
| O.24 | @UTAH | 23-30 |
| O.31 | @COLORADO STATE | 38-17 |
| N.7 | Army | 16-7 |
| N.14 | UNLV | 29-28 |
| N.21 | @BRIGHAM YOUNG | 24-38 |

**Coach:** *Troy Calhoun* **Colors:** *Silver & Blue*
**Nickname:** *Falcons* **2008 Record:** *9-3*

## AKRON
*Akron, OH*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @PENN STATE | |
| S.12 | Morgan State | |
| S.19 | Indiana | |
| S.26 | @CENTRAL MICHIGAN | |
| O.10 | Ohio | 42-49 |
| O.17 | @BUFFALO | 40-43 (OT) |
| O.24 | @SYRACUSE | 42-28 |
| O.31 | @NORTHERN ILLINOIS | |
| N.7 | Kent State | 30-27 (OT) |
| N.13 | Temple | 6-27 |
| N.20 | @BOWLING GREEN | 33-37 |
| N.27 | Eastern Michigan | 42-35 |

**Coach:** *J.D. Brookhart* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Zips* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

## ALABAMA
*Tuscaloosa, AL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @VIRGINIA TECH* | |
| S.12 | Florida International | |
| S.19 | North Texas | |
| S.26 | Arkansas | 49-14 |
| O.3 | @KENTUCKY | 17-14 |
| O.10 | @OLE MISS | 24-20 |
| O.17 | South Carolina | |
| O.24 | Tennessee | 29-9 |
| N.7 | LSU | 27-21 (OT) |
| N.14 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | 32-7 |
| N.21 | Chattanooga | |
| N.27 | @AUBURN | 36-0 |

** At Atlanta, GA*
**Coach:** *Nick Saban* **Colors:** *Crimson & White*
**Nickname:** *Crimson Tide* **2008 Record:** *12-1*

## ALABAMA A&M
*Normal, AL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @TENNESSEE STATE | 13-34 |
| S.12 | Hampton | |
| S.19 | Jacksonville State | 18-45 |
| S.26 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 23-17 |
| O.3 | @TUSKEGEE* | 24-34 |
| O.10 | @GRAMBLING STATE | 9-27 |
| O.17 | @ALCORN STATE | 20-13 |
| O.31 | Alabama State# | 17-16 |
| N.7 | @PRAIRIE VIEW A&M | 10-24 |
| N.14 | Jackson State | 21-37 |
| N.21 | Mississippi Valley State | 58-23 |

** At Indianapolis, IN*
*# At Birmingham, AL*
**Coach:** *Anthony Jones* **Colors:** *Maroon & White*
**Nickname:** *Bulldogs* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

## ALABAMA STATE
*Montgomery, AL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Concordia College | |
| S.12 | @SAVANNAH STATE | |
| S.19 | Edward Waters | |
| S.26 | @MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE | 47-7 |
| O.10 | Prairie View A&M | 6-27 |
| O.17 | Grambling State | 7-27 |
| O.24 | Alcorn State | 24-17 |
| O.31 | @ALABAMA A&M* | 16-17 |
| N.7 | @JACKSON STATE | 0-20 |
| N.14 | @SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY# | 0-15 |
| N.26 | Tuskegee | 17-13 |

** At Birmingham, AL*
*# At Mobile, AL*
**Coach:** *Reggie Barlow* **Colors:** *Black & Old Gold*
**Nickname:** *Hornets* **2008 Record:** *3-8*

## ALBANY
*Albany, NY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @GEORGIA SOUTHERN | |
| S.12 | @MASSACHUSETTS | 16-28 |
| S.19 | Maine | |
| S.26 | Sacred Heart | 26-21 |
| O.3 | @ST. FRANCIS (PA) | 27-3 |
| O.10 | Duquesne | 33-23 |
| O.17 | Bryant | |
| O.24 | @MONMOUTH | 35-17 |
| O.31 | @CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE | 24-22 |
| N.7 | Robert Morris | 41-7 |
| N.21 | @WAGNER | 30-11 |

**Coach:** *Bob Ford* **Colors:** *Purple & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Great Danes* **2008 Record:** *9-3*

## ALCORN STATE
*Alcorn State, MS*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @SOUTHERN MISS | |
| S.19 | @CENTRAL MICHIGAN | |
| S.26 | @SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY | 12-15 |
| O.3 | @ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF | 13-3 |
| O.10 | Mississippi Valley State | 35-21 |
| O.17 | Alabama A&M | 13-20 |
| O.24 | @ALABAMA STATE | 17-24 |
| O.31 | @TEXAS SOUTHERN | 29-30 |
| N.14 | Prairie View A&M | 3-37 |
| N.21 | @JACKSON STATE | 21-26 |

**Coach:** *Earnest Collins*
**Colors:** *Alcorn Purple & Old Gold*
**Nickname:** *Braves* **2008 Record:** *2-10*

## APPALACHIAN STATE
*Boone, NC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @EAST CAROLINA | |
| S.12 | McNeese State | |
| S.26 | Samford | 35-24 |
| O.3 | @CITADEL | 47-21 |
| O.10 | North Carolina Central | |
| O.17 | @WOFFORD | 70-24 |
| O.24 | Georgia Southern | 37-36 |
| O.31 | @FURMAN | 26-14 |
| N.7 | Chattanooga | 49-7 |
| N.14 | @ELON | 24-16 |
| N.21 | Western Carolina | 35-10 |

**Coach:** *Jerry Moore* **Colors:** *Black & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Mountaineers* **2008 Record:** *11-3*

## ARIZONA
*Tucson, AZ*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Central Michigan | |
| S.12 | Northern Arizona | |
| S.19 | @IOWA | |
| S.26 | @OREGON STATE | 17-19 |
| O.10 | @WASHINGTON | 48-14 |
| O.17 | Stanford | 23-24 |
| O.24 | UCLA | 31-10 |
| N.7 | Washington State | 59-28 |
| N.14 | @CALIFORNIA | 42-27 |
| N.21 | Oregon | 45-55 |
| N.28 | @ARIZONA STATE | 31-10 |
| D.5 | @USC | 10-17 |

**Coach:** *Mike Stoops* **Colors:** *Cardinal & Navy*
**Nickname:** *Wildcats* **2008 Record:** *7-5*

## ARIZONA STATE
*Tempe, AZ*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Idaho State | |
| S.19 | Louisiana-Monroe | |
| S.26 | @GEORGIA | 10-27 |
| O.3 | Oregon State | 25-27 |
| O.10 | @WASHINGTON STATE | 31-0 |
| O.17 | Washington | 39-19 |
| O.24 | @STANFORD | 41-17 |
| O.31 | California | 14-24 |
| N.7 | USC | 0-28 |
| N.14 | @OREGON | 20-54 |
| N.21 | @UCLA | 34-9 |
| N.28 | Arizona | 10-31 |

**Coach:** *Dennis Erickson* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Sun Devils* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

## ARKANSAS
*Fayetteville, AR*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Missouri State* | |
| S.19 | Georgia | |
| S.26 | @ALABAMA | 14-49 |
| O.3 | @TEXAS A&M# | |
| O.10 | Auburn | 25-22 |
| O.17 | @FLORIDA | 7-38 |
| O.24 | @OLE MISS | 21-23 |
| O.31 | Eastern Michigan | |
| N.7 | South Carolina | 21-34 |
| N.14 | Troy | |
| N.21 | Mississippi State* | 28-31 |
| N.28 | @LSU | 31-30 |

** At Little Rock, AR*
*# At Arlington, TX*
**Coach:** *Bobby Petrino* **Colors:** *Cardinal & White*
**Nickname:** *Razorbacks* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

## ARKANSAS STATE
*State University, AR*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Mississippi Valley State | |
| S.12 | @NEBRASKA | |
| S.26 | Troy | 9-35 |
| O.3 | @IOWA | |
| O.13 | @LOUISIANA-MONROE | 37-29 |
| O.24 | Florida International | 21-22 |
| O.31 | @LOUISVILLE | |
| N.7 | Louisiana-Lafayette | 23-28 |
| N.14 | @FLORIDA ATLANTIC | 28-14 |
| N.21 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE | 31-14 |
| N.28 | North Texas | 33-28 |
| D.3 | @WESTERN KENTUCKY | |

**Coach:** *Steve Roberts* **Colors:** *Scarlet & Black*
**Nickname:** *Red Wolves* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

## ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF
*Pine Bluff, AR*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Arkansas-Monticello | 7-21 |
| S.12 | Langston | |
| S.19 | @MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE* | 34-0 |
| S.26 | @ALABAMA A&M | 17-23 |
| O.3 | Alcorn State | 3-13 |
| O.10 | @JACKSON STATE | 10-21 |
| O.24 | Edward Waters | |
| O.31 | Southern University | 24-31 (OT) |
| N.7 | Grambling State# | 7-28 |
| N.21 | @PRAIRIE VIEW A&M | 0-15 |
| N.28 | @TEXAS SOUTHERN | 28-7 |

** At Chicago, IL*
*# At Little Rock, AR*
**Coach:** *Monte Coleman* **Colors:** *Black & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Golden Lions* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

## ARMY
*West Point, NY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @EASTERN MICHIGAN | 17-13 |
| S.12 | Duke | |
| S.19 | Ball State | |
| S.26 | @IOWA STATE | |
| O.3 | Tulane | 44-13 |
| O.10 | Vanderbilt | |
| O.17 | @TEMPLE | 7-35 |
| O.23 | Rutgers | 3-30 |
| N.7 | @AIR FORCE | 7-16 |
| N.14 | Virginia Military | |
| N.21 | @NORTH TEXAS | |
| D.12 | @NAVY* | 0-34 |

** At Philadelphia, PA*
**Coach:** *Rich Ellerson* **Colors:** *Black, Gold & Gray*
**Nickname:** *Black Knights* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

## AUBURN
*Auburn, AL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Louisiana Tech | |
| S.12 | Mississippi State | 3-2 |
| S.19 | West Virginia | 17-34 |
| S.26 | Ball State | |
| O.3 | @TENNESSEE | 14-12 |
| O.10 | @ARKANSAS | 22-25 |
| O.17 | Kentucky | |
| O.24 | @LSU | 21-26 |
| O.31 | Ole Miss | 7-17 |
| N.7 | Furman | |
| N.14 | @GEORGIA | 13-17 |
| N.27 | Alabama | 0-36 |

**Coach:** *Gene Chizik* **Colors:** Burnt *Orange & Navy Blue* **Nickname:** *Tigers* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

## AUSTIN PEAY
*Clarksville, TN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.12 | @YOUNGSTOWN STATE | |
| S.19 | @ILLINOIS STATE | |
| S.26 | Eastern Illinois | 15-13 |
| O.3 | @TENNESSEE TECH | 31-28 |
| O.10 | @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE | 30-33 |
| O.24 | Eastern Kentucky | 10-13 (OT) |
| O.31 | Jacksonville State | 22-35 |
| N.7 | @MURRAY STATE | 12-32 |
| N.14 | Tennessee State | 34-37 |
| N.21 | @TENNESSEE-MARTIN | 17-31 |

**Coach:** *Rick Christophel* **Colors:** *Red & White*
**Nickname:** *Governors* **2008 Record:** *2-9*

## BALL STATE
*Muncie, IN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | North Texas | |
| S.12 | New Hampshire | |
| S.19 | @ARMY | |
| S.26 | @AUBURN | |
| O.3 | Toledo | 31-0 |
| O.10 | @TEMPLE | |
| O.17 | Bowling Green | |
| O.24 | @EASTERN MICHIGAN | 38-16 |
| O.31 | Ohio | |
| N.12 | @NORTHERN ILLINOIS | 45-14 |
| N.18 | Central Michigan | 31-24 |
| N.24 | @WESTERN MICHIGAN | 45-22 |

**Coach:** *Stan Parrish* **Colors:** *Cardinal & White*
**Nickname:** *Cardinals* **2008 Record:** *12-1*

## BAYLOR
*Waco, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @WAKE FOREST | 13-41 |
| S.19 | Connecticut | 28-31 |
| S.26 | Northwestern State | 51-6 |
| O.3 | Kent State | |
| O.10 | @OKLAHOMA | 17-49 |
| O.17 | @IOWA STATE | 38-10 |
| O.24 | Oklahoma State | 6-34 |
| O.31 | Nebraska | 20-32 |
| N.7 | @MISSOURI | 28-31 |
| N.14 | Texas | 21-45 |
| N.21 | @TEXAS A&M | 41-21 |
| N.28 | Texas Tech* | 28-35 |

** At Arlington, TX*
**Coach:** *Art Briles* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Bears* **2008 Record:** *4-8*

## BETHUNE-COOKMAN
*Daytona Beach, FL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Shaw | |
| S.12 | South Carolina State | 19-28 |
| S.26 | @NORFOLK STATE | 33-17 |
| O.3 | Morgan State | 31-27 |
| O.10 | @DELAWARE STATE | 20-26 |
| O.17 | @SAVANNAH STATE | 34-9 |
| O.24 | Winston-Salem State | 27-6 |
| O.31 | @NORTH CAROLINA A&T | 24-14 |
| N.7 | Hampton | 17-6 |
| N.14 | @HOWARD | 14-12 |
| N.21 | @FLORIDA A&M* | 35-58 |

** At Orlando, FL*
**Coach:** *Alvin Wyatt* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Wildcats* **2008 Record:** *8-3*

## BOISE STATE
*Boise, ID*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | Oregon | 37-32 |
| S.12 | Miami (OH) | |
| S.18 | @FRESNO STATE | 61-10 |
| S.26 | @BOWLING GREEN | 20-7 |
| O.3 | UC-Davis | |
| O.14 | @TULSA | |
| O.24 | @HAWAII | 27-7 |
| O.31 | San Jose State | 33-16 |
| N.6 | @LOUISIANA TECH | 38-3 |
| N.14 | Idaho | 45-10 |
| N.20 | @UTAH STATE | 49-14 |
| N.27 | Nevada | 41-34 |
| D.5 | New Mexico State | 49-0 |

**Coach:** *Chris Petersen* **Colors:** *Blue & Orange*
**Nickname:** *Broncos* **2008 Record:** *12-0*

## BOSTON COLLEGE
*Chestnut Hill, MA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Northeastern | |
| S.12 | Kent State | 21-0 |
| S.19 | @CLEMSON | 21-27 |
| S.26 | Wake Forest | 24-21 |
| O.3 | Florida State | 27-17 |
| O.10 | @VIRGINIA TECH | 12-30 |
| O.17 | North Carolina State | 38-31 |
| O.24 | @NOTRE DAME | 17-0 |
| O.31 | Central Michigan | |
| N.14 | @VIRGINIA | |
| N.21 | North Carolina | 24-45 |
| N.28 | @MARYLAND | 28-21 |

**Coach:** *Frank Spaziani* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Eagles* **2008 Record:** *9-4*

## BOWLING GREEN
*Bowling Green, OH*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | Troy | |
| S.12 | @MISSOURI | |
| S.19 | @MARSHALL | |
| S.26 | Boise State | 7-20 |
| O.3 | Ohio | 28-3 |
| O.10 | @KENT STATE | 45-30 |
| O.17 | @BALL STATE | |
| O.24 | Central Michigan | |
| N.3 | @BUFFALO | 34-40 (OT) |
| N.12 | @MIAMI (OH) | 20-27 |
| N.20 | Akron | 37-33 |
| N.27 | Toledo | 38-10 |

**Coach:** *Dave Clawson* **Colors:** *Brown & Orange*
**Nickname:** *Falcons* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

## BRIGHAM YOUNG
*Provo, UT*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @OKLAHOMA* | |
| S.12 | @TULANE | |
| S.19 | Florida State | |
| S.26 | Colorado State | 45-42 |
| O.2 | Utah State | 34-14 |
| O.10 | @UNLV | 42-35 |
| O.17 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | 41-12 |
| O.24 | TCU | 7-32 |
| N.7 | @WYOMING | 44-0 |
| N.14 | @NEW MEXICO | 21-3 |
| N.21 | Air Force | 38-24 |
| N.28 | Utah | 24-48 |

** At Arlington, TX*
**Coach:** *Bronco Mendenhall* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
**Nickname:** *Cougars* **2008 Record:** *10-2*

## BROWN
*Providence, RI*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.19 | @STONY BROOK | 17-7 |
| S.26 | @HARVARD | 24-22 |
| O.3 | Rhode Island | 13-37 |
| O.10 | Holy Cross | 34-41 |
| O.17 | Princeton | 31-10 |
| O.24 | @CORNELL | 27-7 |
| O.31 | Pennsylvania | 34-27 |
| N.7 | @YALE | 3-13 |
| N.14 | Dartmouth | 45-16 |
| N.21 | @COLUMBIA | 41-10 |

**Coach:** *Phil Estes* **Colors:** *Seal Brown, Red & White*
**Nickname:** *Bears* **2008 Record:** *7-3*

## BRYANT COLLEGE
*Smithfield, RI*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Southern Connecticut State | 39-36 |
| S.12 | Hofstra | |
| S.26 | @ROBERT MORRIS | 20-7 |
| O.3 | Wagner | 24-14 |
| O.10 | @FORDHAM | |
| O.17 | @ALBANY | |
| O.24 | Central Connecticut State | 35-42 |
| O.31 | @MONMOUTH | 17-30 |
| N.7 | @SACRED HEART | |
| N.14 | St. Francis (PA) | 23-0 |
| N.21 | @DUQUESNE | 24-10 |

**Coach:** *Marty Fine* **Colors:** *Gold & White*
**Nickname:** *Bulldogs* **2008 Record:** *7-4*

## BUCKNELL
*Lewisburg, PA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @DUQUESNE | 48-42 |
| S.12 | Robert Morris | 17-14 |
| S.19 | @CORNELL | 20-21 |
| S.26 | Marist | 21-17 |
| O.3 | Georgetown | 27-24 |
| O.10 | @PENNSYLVANIA | |
| O.24 | Lehigh | 15-31 |
| O.31 | @LAFAYETTE | 21-38 |
| N.7 | @FORDHAM | 24-21 (OT) |
| N.14 | @COLGATE | 28-52 |
| N.21 | Holy Cross | 17-34 |

**Coach:** *Tim Landis* **Colors:** *Blue & Orange*
**Nickname:** *Bison* **2008 Record:** *5-6*

## BUFFALO
*Buffalo, NY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @UTEP | 42-17 |
| S.12 | Pittsburgh | 16-27 |
| S.19 | @UCF | |
| S.26 | @TEMPLE | 30-28 |
| O.3 | Central Michigan | 25-27 |
| O.10 | Gardner-Webb | |
| O.17 | Akron | 43-40 (OT) |
| O.24 | @WESTERN MICHIGAN | 28-34 (OT) |
| N.3 | Bowling Green | 40-34 (OT) |
| N.10 | Ohio | 32-19 |
| N.18 | @MIAMI (OH) | 37-17 |
| N.27 | @KENT STATE | 21-24 |

**Coach:** *Turner Gill* **Colors:** *Royal Blue & White*
**Nickname:** *Bulls* **2008 Record:** *8-5*

## BUTLER
*Indianapolis, IN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Albion | 20-6 |
| S.12 | @FRANKLIN | 28-31 |
| S.19 | Hanover | |
| S.26 | @MOREHEAD STATE | 31-21 |
| O.3 | San Diego | 17-34 |
| O.17 | Valparaiso | 48-21 |
| O.24 | @CAMPBELL | 56-7 |
| O.31 | Davidson | 34-46 |
| N.7 | @DAYTON | 21-28 (OT) |
| N.14 | @JACKSONVILLE | 9-45 |
| N.21 | Drake | 21-15 |

**Coach:** *Jeff Voris* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
**Nickname:** *Bulldogs* **2008 Record:** *6-5*

## CAL POLY
*San Luis Obispo, CA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.12 | Sacramento State | |
| S.19 | @OHIO | |
| S.26 | @SAN JOSE STATE | |
| O.3 | South Dakota State | 42-28 |
| O.10 | @MONTANA | 28-30 |
| O.17 | Southern Utah | 69-41 |
| O.31 | @NORTH DAKOTA | |
| N.7 | @UC-DAVIS | 51-28 |
| N.14 | South Dakota | 49-22 |
| N.21 | @WEBER STATE | 35-49 |

**Coach:** *Tim Walsh* **Colors:** *Forest Green & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Mustangs* **2008 Record:** *8-3*

## CALIFORNIA
*Berkeley, CA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Maryland | 27-35 |
| S.12 | Eastern Washington | |
| S.19 | @MINNESOTA | |
| S.26 | @OREGON | 26-16 |
| O.3 | USC | 3-17 |
| O.17 | @UCLA | 41-20 |
| O.24 | Washington State | 66-3 |
| O.31 | @ARIZONA STATE | 24-14 |
| N.7 | Oregon State | 21-34 |
| N.14 | Arizona | 27-42 |
| N.21 | @STANFORD | 37-16 |
| D.5 | @WASHINGTON | 48-7 |

**Coach:** *Jeff Tedford* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Golden Bears* **2008 Record:** *8-4*

## UC-DAVIS
*Davis, CA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @FRESNO STATE | |
| S.12 | Montana | 24-29 |

S.26 Western Oregon
0.3 @BOISE STATE
0.10 @SOUTH DAKOTA
0.17 Winston-Salem State
0.24 @PORTLAND STATE 38-24
0.31 @SOUTHERN UTAH 49-26
N.7 Cal Poly 28-51
N.14 North Dakota 34-21
N.21 @SACRAMENTO STATE 19-29
***Coach:*** *Bob Biggs* ***Colors:*** *Yale Blue & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Aggies* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

## CAMPBELL
*Buies Creek, NC*
S.5 Methodist 21-32
S.12 @BIRMINGHAM SOUTHERN 6-12
S.19 @DAVIDSON 0-49
0.3 @MARIST
0.10 Dayton 0-42
0.17 @OLD DOMINION
0.24 Butler 7-56
0.31 Morehead State 7-42
N.7 @DRAKE 0-45
N.14 @VALPARAISO 14-47
N.21 Jacksonville 0-52
***Coach:*** *Dale Steele* ***Colors:*** *Black & Orange*
***Nickname:*** *Fighting Camels* ***2008 Record:*** *1-10*

## CENTRAL ARKANSAS
*Conway, AR*
S.4 @HAWAII
S.19 @WESTERN KENTUCKY
S.26 Glenville State
0.3 Missouri-Rolla
0.10 @NORTHWESTERN STATE 42-6
0.17 Stephen F. Austin 49-41
0.24 Nicholls State 17-20
0.31 @SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA 28-21
N.7 Texas State 31-24
N.14 @SAM HOUSTON STATE 48-46
N.21 @McNEESE STATE 47-30
N.28 North Dakota
***Coach:*** *Clint Conque* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gray*
***Nickname:*** *Bears* ***2008 Record:*** *10-2*

## CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE
*New Britain, CT*
S.5 @LEHIGH
S.12 @WILLIAM & MARY
S.26 @COLUMBIA
0.3 Sacred Heart 49-14
0.10 Robert Morris 14-27
0.17 @DUQUESNE 35-23
0.24 @BRYANT 42-35
0.31 Albany 22-24
N.7 @WAGNER 35-10
N.14 Monmouth 20-30
N.21 @ST. FRANCIS (PA) 36-0
***Coach:*** *Jeff McInerney* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Blue Devils* ***2008 Record:*** *7-4*

## CENTRAL MICHIGAN
*Mount Pleasant, MI*
S.5 @ARIZONA
S.12 @MICHIGAN STATE
S.19 Alcorn State
S.26 Akron
0.3 @BUFFALO 27-25
0.10 Eastern Michigan 52-56
0.17 @WESTERN MICHIGAN 38-28
0.24 @BOWLING GREEN
0.31 @BOSTON COLLEGE
N.11 Toledo 24-23
N.18 @BALL STATE 24-31
N.27 Northern Illinois 33-30 (OT)
***Coach:*** *Butch Jones* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Chippewas* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

## CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
Charleston, SC
S.5 @FLORIDA
S.12 @WOFFORD 23-41
S.19 @SOUTH FLORIDA
S.26 North Greenville 27-0
0.3 Savannah State 29-20
0.17 @GARDNER-WEBB 13-10
0.24 Liberty 0-42
0.31 @VIRGINIA MILITARY 31-21
N.7 @PRESBYTERIAN 29-18
N.14 Stony Brook 19-20
N.21 Coastal Carolina 24-0
***Coach:*** *Jay Mills* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Buccaneers* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

## CHATTANOOGA
*Chattanooga, TN*
S.3 Glenville State
S.12 Furman 10-35
S.19 @PRESBYTERIAN
S.26 Wofford 7-56
0.10 @SAMFORD 7-30
0.17 @GEORGIA SOUTHERN 28-52
0.24 @ELON 7-42
0.31 Western Carolina 7-27
N.7 @APPALACHIAN STATE 7-49
N.14 Citadel 21-24
N.21 @ALABAMA
***Coach:*** *Russ Huesman* ***Colors:*** *Navy & Old Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Mocs* ***2008 Record:*** *1-11*

## CINCINNATI
*Cincinnati, OH*
S.7 @RUTGERS 13-10
S.12 Southeast Missouri State
S.19 @OREGON STATE
S.26 Fresno State
0.3 @MIAMI (OH) 45-20
0.15 @SOUTH FLORIDA 24-10
0.24 Louisville 28-20
0.31 @SYRACUSE 30-10
N.7 Connecticut 16-40
N.13 West Virginia 26-23 (OT)
N.27 Illinois
D.5 @PITTSBURGH 28-21
***Coach:*** *Brian Kelly* ***Colors:*** *Red & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Bearcats* ***2008 Record:*** *11-2*

## CITADEL
*Charleston, SC*
S.5 @NORTH CAROLINA
S.19 @PRINCETON 37-24
S.26 Presbyterian
0.3 Appalachian State 21-47
0.10 @ELON 23-27
0.17 @WESTERN CAROLINA 34-14
0.24 Furman 20-34
0.31 Samford 10-28
N.7 Wofford 28-33
N.14 @CHATTANOOGA 24-21
N.21 @GEORGIA SOUTHERN 41-44 (OT)
***Coach:*** *Kevin Higgins* ***Colors:*** *Citadel Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

## CLEMSON
*Clemson, SC*
S.5 Middle Tennessee State
S.10 @GEORGIA TECH 17-21
S.19 Boston College 27-21
S.26 TCU
0.3 @MARYLAND 17-20
0.17 Wake Forest 7-12
0.24 @MIAMI (FL)
0.31 Coastal Carolina
N.7 Florida State 27-41
N.14 @NORTH CAROLINA STATE 27-9
N.21 Virginia 13-3
N.28 @SOUTH CAROLINA 31-14
***Coach:*** *Dabo Swinney*
***Colors:*** *Orange, Purple & White*
***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

## COASTAL CAROLINA
*Conway, SC*
S.3 @KENT STATE
S.12 Monmouth 26-7
S.19 @TOWSON 31-3
S.26 North Carolina A&T 20-7
0.10 Virginia Military 20-47
0.17 @LIBERTY 38-43
0.24 @STONY BROOK 24-28
0.31 @CLEMSON
N.7 Gardner-Webb 23-18
N.14 Presbyterian 21-13
N.21 @CHARLESTON SOUTHERN 0-24
***Coach:*** *David Bennett* ***Colors:*** *Coastal Teal & Bronze*
***Nickname:*** *Chanticleers* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

## COLGATE
*Hamilton, NY*
S.5 Monmouth
S.12 Stony Brook 26-42
S.19 @DARTMOUTH 34-20
S.26 Fordham 31-24
0.3 Cornell 38-22
0.8 @PRINCETON 27-24
0.17 @GEORGETOWN
0.24 @HOLY CROSS 28-27
0.31 Lehigh 34-33
N.7 @LAFAYETTE 21-13
N.14 Bucknell 52-28
***Coach:*** *Dick Biddle* ***Colors:*** *Maroon, White & Gray* ***Nickname:*** *Raiders* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

## COLORADO
*Boulder, CO*
S.5 Colorado State 38-17
S.11 @TOLEDO
S.19 Wyoming
0.1 @WEST VIRGINIA 17-14 (OT)
0.10 @TEXAS 14-38
0.17 Kansas 14-30
0.24 @KANSAS STATE 14-13
0.31 Missouri 0-58
N.7 Texas A&M 17-24
N.14 @IOWA STATE 28-24
N.19 @OKLAHOMA STATE 17-30
N.27 Nebraska 31-40
***Coach:*** *Dan Hawkins* ***Colors:*** *Silver, Gold & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Buffaloes* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

## COLORADO STATE
*Fort Collins, CO*
S.5 @COLORADO 17-38
S.12 Weber State
S.19 Nevada
S.26 @BRIGHAM YOUNG 42-45
0.3 @IDAHO
0.10 Utah 16-49
0.17 @TCU 7-13
0.24 San Diego State 38-34
0.31 Air Force 17-38
N.7 @UNLV 41-28
N.21 @NEW MEXICO 20-6
N.27 Wyoming 31-20
***Coach:*** *Steve Fairchild* ***Colors:*** *Green & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Rams* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

## COLUMBIA
*New York, NY*
S.19 @FORDHAM 22-29
S.26 Central Connecticut State
0.3 @PRINCETON 24-27
0.10 @LAFAYETTE 3-13
0.17 Pennsylvania 10-15
0.24 @DARTMOUTH 21-13
0.31 Yale 12-27
N.7 Harvard 28-42
N.14 @CORNELL 17-7
N.21 Brown 10-41
***Coach:*** *Norries Wilson* ***Colors:*** *Columbia Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Lions* ***2008 Record:*** *2-8*

## CONNECTICUT
*Storrs, CT*
S.5 @OHIO
S.12 North Carolina 12-38
S.19 @BAYLOR 31-28
S.26 Rhode Island
0.10 @PITTSBURGH 10-34
0.17 Louisville 26-21
0.24 @WEST VIRGINIA 13-35
0.31 Rutgers 10-12
N.7 @CINCINNATI 40-16
N.21 @NOTRE DAME
N.28 Syracuse 39-14
D.5 South Florida 13-17
***Coach:*** *Randy Edsall* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Huskies 2008 Record: 7-5*

## CORNELL
*Ithaca, NY*
S.19 Bucknell 21-20
S.26 @YALE 17-14
0.3 @COLGATE 22-38
0.10 Harvard 17-38
0.17 Fordham
0.24 Brown 7-27
0.31 @PRINCETON 26-31
N.7 @DARTMOUTH 37-14
N.14 Columbia 7-17
N.21 @PENNSYLVANIA 6-23
***Coach:*** *Jim Knowles* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
***Nickname:*** *Big Red* ***2008 Record:*** *4-6*

## DARTMOUTH
*Hanover, NH*
S.19 Colgate 20-34
S.26 @NEW HAMPSHIRE 6-42
0.3 Pennsylvania 10-23
0.10 @YALE 7-34
0.17 @HOLY CROSS 26-44
0.24 Columbia 13-21
0.31 @HARVARD 7-35
N.7 Cornell 14-37
N.14 @BROWN 16-45
N.21 Princeton 10-28
***Coach:*** *Buddy Teevens* ***Colors:*** *Dartmouth Green & White* ***Nickname:*** *Big Green* ***2008 Record:*** *0-10*

## DAVIDSON
*Davidson, NC*
S.5 @ELON
S.12 Lenoir-Rhyne 20-16
S.19 Campbell 49-0
0.3 @JACKSONVILLE 38-35
0.10 Morehead State 13-26
0.17 @DAYTON 22-41
0.24 Drake 17-20
0.31 @BUTLER 46-34
N.7 @SAN DIEGO 24-28
N.14 Marist 19-24
***Coach:*** *Tripp Merritt* ***Colors:*** *Red & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Wildcats* ***2008 Record:*** *4-7*

## DAYTON
*Dayton, OH*
S.19 @ROBERT MORRIS 31-14
S.26 Duquesne 16-24
0.3 @MOREHEAD STATE 13-14
0.10 @CAMPBELL 42-0
0.17 Davidson 41-22
0.24 @VALPARAISO 43-7
0.31 San Diego 30-22
N.7 Butler 28-21 (OT)
N.14 @DRAKE 27-9
N.21 Marist
***Coach:*** *Rick Chamberlin Colors: Red & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Flyers* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

## DELAWARE
*Newark, DE*
S.4 West Chester 48-20
S.12 Richmond 14-31
S.19 Delaware State
S.26 @WILLIAM & MARY 3-27
0.3 @MAINE 10-27
0.10 Massachusetts 7-17
0.17 @TOWSON 31-21
0.31 James Madison 7-41
N.7 Hofstra 17-0
N.14 @NAVY
N.21 @VILLANOVA 7-21
***Coach:*** *K.C. Keeler* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Blue Hens* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

## DELAWARE STATE
*Dover, DE*
S.5 @FLORIDA A&M 35-28 (OT)
S.19 @DELAWARE
S.26 @HAMPTON 14-17
0.10 Bethune-Cookman 26-20
0.17 @MICHIGAN
0.24 Morgan State 3-20
0.31 @SOUTH CAROLINA STATE 17-23
N.7 @WINSTON-SALEM STATE 26-27
N.14 Norfolk State 34-28
N.21 Howard 10-6
***Coach:*** *Al Lavan* ***Colors:*** *Columbia Blue & Red*
***Nickname:*** *Hornets* ***2008 Record:*** *5-6*

## DRAKE
*Des Moines, IA*
S.5 Grand View
S.12 @MARIST
S.19 @SOUTH DAKOTA
0.3 Valparaiso 32-0
0.10 Missouri-Rolla
0.17 @SAN DIEGO 17-43
0.24 @DAVIDSON 20-17
0.31 Jacksonville 9-41
N.7 Campbell 45-0
N.14 Dayton 9-27
N.21 @BUTLER 15-21
***Coach:*** *Chris Creighton* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *6-5*

## DUKE
*Durham, NC*
S.5 Richmond
S.12 @ARMY
S.19 @KANSAS
S.26 North Carolina Central
0.3 Virginia Tech 3-14
0.10 @NORTH CAROLINA STATE 17-27
0.24 Maryland
0.31 @VIRGINIA 31-3
N.7 @NORTH CAROLINA 20-28
N.14 Georgia Tech 0-27
N.21 @MIAMI (FL) 31-49
N.28 Wake Forest 30-33 (OT)
***Coach:*** *David Cutcliffe* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Blue Devils* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

## DUQUESNE
*Pittsburgh, PA*
S.5 Bucknell 42-48
S.12 @NICHOLLS STATE
S.19 @MONMOUTH 14-37
S.26 @DAYTON 24-16
0.3 Robert Morris 27-34
0.10 @ALBANY 23-33
0.17 Central Connecticut State 23-35
0.24 @ST. FRANCIS (PA) 21-7
0.31 Wagner 14-0
N.14 @SACRED HEART 17-29
N.21 Bryant 10-24
***Coach:*** *Jerry Schmitt* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Dukes* ***2008 Record:*** *3-7*

## EAST CAROLINA
*Greenville, NC*
S.5 Appalachian State
S.12 @WEST VIRGINIA 24-3
S.19 @NORTH CAROLINA
S.26 UCF 13-10 (OT)
0.3 @MARSHALL 19-16 (OT)
0.10 @SOUTHERN METHODIST
0.17 Rice
0.27 @MEMPHIS 30-10
N.5 Virginia Tech 27-22
N.15 @TULSA 27-24
N.21 UAB 17-13
N.28 Southern Miss 3-21
***Coach:*** *Skip Holtz* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Pirates* ***2008 Record:*** *9-4*

## EASTERN ILLINOIS
*Charleston, IL*
S.3 Illinois State 25-21
S.12 @INDIANA STATE 38-3
S.19 @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE 24-21
S.26 @AUSTIN PEAY 13-15
0.3 Eastern Kentucky 7-20
0.10 @PENN STATE
0.17 Tennessee Tech 38-20
0.24 @JACKSONVILLE STATE 10-23
0.31 @MURRAY STATE 34-6
N.14 Tennessee-Martin 26-29
N.21 Tennessee State 24-45
***Coach:*** *Bob Spoo* ***Colors:*** *Blue, Gray & White*
***Nickname:*** *Panthers* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

## EASTERN KENTUCKY
*Richmond, KY*
S.3 @INDIANA*
S.19 Tennessee Tech 33-12
S.26 @MURRAY STATE 34-7
0.3 @EASTERN ILLINOIS 20-7
0.10 Tennessee State 20-34
0.17 Tennessee-Martin 33-31
0.24 @AUSTIN PEAY 13-10 (OT)
0.31 Southeast Missouri State 29-16
N.7 @KENTUCKY
N.14 Western Carolina
N.21 @JACKSONVILLE STATE 38-35
** At Commerce, TX*
***Coach:*** *Dean Hood* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
***Nickname:*** *Colonels* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

## EASTERN MICHIGAN
*Ypsilanti, MI*
S.5 Army 13-17
S.12 @NORTHWESTERN
S.19 @MICHIGAN
0.3 Temple 52-55
0.10 @CENTRAL MICHIGAN 56-52
0.17 Kent State
0.24 Ball State 16-38
0.31 @ARKANSAS
N.5 @NORTHERN ILLINOIS 0-37
N.14 Western Michigan 10-31
N.20 @TOLEDO 17-41
N.27 @AKRON 35-42
***Coach:*** *Ron English* ***Colors:*** *Dark Green & White*
***Nickname:*** *Eagles* ***2008 Record:*** *3-9*

## EASTERN WASHINGTON
*Cheney, WA*
S.5 Western Oregon
S.12 @CALIFORNIA
S.19 Northern Colorado 31-16
S.26 @SACRAMENTO STATE 13-15
0.3 @IDAHO STATE 45-31
0.10 Weber State 33-26
0.17 @MONTANA 3-19
0.24 Montana State 34-17
0.31 Portland State* 36-47
N.14 @SOUTHERN UTAH
N.21 @NORTHERN ARIZONA 28-13
** At Seattle, WA*
***Coach:*** *Beau Baldwin* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
***Nickname:*** *Eagles* ***2008 Record:*** *6-5*

## ELON
*Elon College, NC*
S.5 Davidson
S.12 @PRESBYTERIAN 66-12
S.19 @WAKE FOREST
S.26 Georgia Southern 22-20
0.3 @FURMAN 31-10
0.10 Citadel 27-23
0.24 Chattanooga 42-7
0.31 @WOFFORD 20-55
N.7 @WESTERN CAROLINA 33-14
N.14 Appalachian State 16-24
N.21 @SAMFORD 23-17
***Coach:*** *Pete Lembo* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Phoenix* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

## FLORIDA
*Gainesville, FL*
S.5 Charleston Southern
S.12 Troy
S.19 Tennessee 30-6
S.26 @KENTUCKY 63-5
0.10 @LSU 51-21
0.17 Arkansas 38-7
0.24 @MISSISSIPPI STATE
0.31 Georgia* 49-10
N.7 Vanderbilt 42-14
N.14 @SOUTH CAROLINA 56-6
N.21 Florida International
N.28 Florida State 45-15
** At Jacksonville, FL*
***Coach:*** *Urban Meyer* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Gators* ***2008 Record:*** *12-1*

### FLORIDA A&M
*Tallahassee, FL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Delaware State | 28-35 (OT) |
| S.12 | @WINSTON-SALEM STATE | 23-0 |
| S.19 | Howard | 51-24 |
| S.26 | @TENNESSEE STATE* | 28-21 |
| 0.10 | @MIAMI (FL) | |
| 0.17 | @SOUTH CAROLINA STATE | 21-28 |
| 0.24 | Norfolk State | 31-28 |
| 0.31 | @MORGAN STATE | 10-13 |
| N.7 | North Carolina A&T | 45-7 |
| N.14 | @HAMPTON | 45-24 |
| N.21 | Bethune-Cookman# | 58-35 |

** At Atlanta, GA*
*# At Orlando, FL*
***Coach:*** *Joe Taylor* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Green*
***Nickname:*** *Rattlers* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

### FLORIDA ATLANTIC
*Boca Raton, FL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @NEBRASKA | |
| S.19 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | |
| S.26 | Louisiana-Monroe | 29-28 |
| 0.3 | Wyoming | |
| 0.17 | @NORTH TEXAS | 46-13 |
| 0.24 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE | 40-29 |
| 0.31 | Middle Tennessee | 13-14 |
| N.7 | @UAB | 49-34 |
| N.14 | Arkansas State | 14-28 |
| N.21 | @TROY | 17-30 |
| N.28 | Western Kentucky | 24-20 |
| D.5 | @FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL | 57-50 (OT) |

***Coach:*** *Howard Schnellenberger* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Red* ***Nickname:*** *Owls* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

### FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
*Miami, FL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.12 | @ALABAMA | |
| S.19 | @RUTGERS | |
| S.26 | Toledo | 35-16 |
| 0.3 | @LOUISIANA-MONROE | 27-31 |
| 0.10 | @WESTERN KENTUCKY | 27-3 |
| 0.17 | Troy | 23-33 |
| 0.24 | @ARKANSAS STATE | 22-21 |
| 0.31 | Louisiana-Lafayette | 20-49 |
| N.7 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE | 31-21 |
| N.14 | North Texas | 42-10 |
| N.21 | @FLORIDA | |
| D.5 | Florida Atlantic | 50-57 (OT) |

***Coach:*** *Mario Cristobal* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Golden Panthers* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

### FLORIDA STATE
*Tallahassee, FL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.7 | Miami (FL) | 41-39 |
| S.12 | Jacksonville State | |
| S.19 | @BRIGHAM YOUNG | |
| S.26 | South Florida | |
| 0.3 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | 17-27 |
| 0.10 | Georgia Tech | 28-31 |
| 0.22 | @NORTH CAROLINA | |
| 0.31 | North Carolina State | 26-17 |
| N.7 | @CLEMSON | 41-27 |
| N.14 | @WAKE FOREST | 3-12 |
| N.21 | Maryland | 37-3 |
| N.28 | @FLORIDA | 15-45 |

***Coach:*** *Bobby Bowden* ***Colors:*** *Garnet & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Seminoles* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

### FORDHAM
*Bronx, NY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @RHODE ISLAND | 16-0 |
| S.19 | Columbia | 29-22 |
| S.26 | @COLGATE | 24-31 |
| 0.3 | Old Dominion | |
| 0.10 | Bryant | |
| 0.17 | @CORNELL | |
| 0.24 | @LAFAYETTE | 13-48 |
| 0.31 | Holy Cross | 17-38 |
| N.7 | Bucknell | 21-24 (OT) |
| N.14 | Lehigh | 24-45 |
| N.21 | @GEORGETOWN | 17-0 |

***Coach:*** *Tom Masella* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
***Nickname:*** *Rams* ***2008 Record:*** *5-6*

### FRESNO STATE
*Fresno, CA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | UC-Davis | |
| S.12 | @WISCONSIN | 10-13 |
| S.18 | Boise State | 10-61 |
| S.26 | @CINCINNATI | |
| 0.10 | @HAWAII | 29-32 (OT) |
| 0.17 | San Jose State | 24-10 |
| 0.24 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | 24-17 |
| 0.31 | Utah State | 30-28 |
| N.7 | @IDAHO | 45-32 |
| N.14 | @NEVADA | 28-41 |
| N.21 | Louisiana Tech | 35-38 |
| D.5 | @ILLINOIS | |

***Coach:*** *Pat Hill* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

### FURMAN
*Greenville, SC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Presbyterian | |
| S.12 | @CHATTANOOGA | 35-10 |
| S.19 | @MISSOURI | |
| S.26 | @WESTERN CAROLINA | 28-21 |
| 0.3 | Elon | 10-31 |
| 0.17 | Samford | 28-27 |
| 0.24 | @CITADEL | 34-20 |
| 0.31 | Appalachian State | 14-26 |
| N.7 | @AUBURN | |
| N.14 | @GEORGIA SOUTHERN | 10-17 |
| N.21 | Wofford | 10-35 |

***Coach:*** *Bobby Lamb* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White*
***Nickname:*** *Paladins* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

### GARDNER-WEBB
*Boiling Springs, NC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Mars Hill | |
| S.12 | @WESTERN CAROLINA | |
| S.19 | @NORTH CAROLINA STATE | |
| 0.3 | @VIRGINIA MILITARY | 34-27 |
| 0.10 | @BUFFALO | |
| 0.17 | Charleston Southern | 10-13 |
| 0.24 | Southern Virginia | |
| 0.31 | Stony Brook | 34-33 |
| N.7 | @COASTAL CAROLINA | 18-23 |
| N.14 | Liberty | 10-30 |
| N.21 | @PRESBYTERIAN | 47-21 |

***Coach:*** *Steve Patton*
***Colors:*** *Scarlet, White & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Runnin' Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *5-6*

### GEORGETOWN
*Washington, DC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @HOLY CROSS | 14-38 |
| S.12 | Lafayette | 6-24 |
| S.19 | Yale | 7-47 |
| S.26 | Howard | 12-7 |
| 0.3 | @BUCKNELL | 24-27 |
| 0.10 | @LEHIGH | 13-33 |
| 0.17 | Colgate | |
| 0.31 | @OLD DOMINION | |
| N.7 | @MARIST | 13-12 |
| N.14 | Richmond | 0-48 |
| N.21 | Fordham | 0-17 |

***Coach:*** *Kevin Kelly* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gray*
***Nickname:*** *Hoyas* ***2008 Record:*** *2-8*

### GEORGIA
*Athens, GA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | |
| S.12 | South Carolina | 14-7 |
| S.19 | @ARKANSAS | |
| S.26 | Arizona State | 27-10 |
| 0.3 | LSU | 52-38 |
| 0.10 | @TENNESSEE | 26-14 |
| 0.17 | @VANDERBILT | 24-14 |
| 0.31 | @FLORIDA* | 10-49 |
| N.7 | Tennessee Tech | |
| N.14 | Auburn | 17-13 |
| N.21 | Kentucky | 42-38 |
| N.28 | @GEORGIA TECH | 42-45 |

** At Jacksonville, FL*
***Coach:*** *Mark Richt* ***Colors:*** *Red & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

### GEORGIA SOUTHERN
*Statesboro, GA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Albany | |
| S.12 | @SOUTH DAKOTA STATE | |
| S.19 | Western Carolina | 38-31 (OT) |
| S.26 | @ELON | 20-22 |
| 0.3 | @WOFFORD | 37-38 (OT) |
| 0.10 | @NORTH CAROLINA | |
| 0.17 | Chattanooga | 52-28 |
| 0.24 | @APPALACHIAN STATE | 36-37 |
| N.7 | @SAMFORD | 17-27 |
| N.14 | Furman | 17-10 |
| N.21 | Citadel | 44-41 (OT) |

***Coach:*** *Chris Hatcher* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Eagles* ***2008 Record:*** *6-5*

### GEORGIA TECH
*Atlanta, GA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Jacksonville State | 41-14 |
| S.10 | Clemson | 21-17 |
| S.17 | @MIAMI (FL) | 41-23 |
| S.26 | North Carolina | 7-28 |
| 0.3 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | 38-7 |
| 0.10 | @FLORIDA STATE | 31-28 |
| 0.17 | Virginia Tech | 17-20 |
| 0.24 | @VIRGINIA | 17-24 |
| 0.31 | @VANDERBILT | |
| N.7 | Wake Forest | |
| N.14 | @DUKE | 27-0 |
| N.28 | Georgia | 45-42 |

***Coach:*** *Paul Johnson* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & White*
***Nickname:*** *Yellow Jackets* ***2008 Record:*** *9-5*

### GRAMBLING STATE
*Grambling, LA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.6 | South Carolina State* | |
| S.12 | Northwestern State | 19-31 |
| S.19 | @JACKSON STATE | 41-9 |
| S.26 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | |
| 0.3 | @PRAIRIE VIEW A&M# | 40-16 |
| 0.10 | Alabama A&M | 27-9 |
| 0.17 | @ALABAMA STATE | 27-7 |
| 0.31 | Mississippi Valley State | 35-14 |
| N.7 | @ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF$ | 28-7 |
| N.12 | Texas Southern | 33-7 |
| N.28 | Southern University% | 29-14 |

** At Orlando, FL*
*# At Dallas, TX*
*$ At Little Rock, AR*
*% At New Orleans, LA*
***Coach:*** *Rod Broadway* ***Colors:*** *Black & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *11-2*

### HAMPTON
*Hampton, VA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | North Carolina Central | |
| S.12 | @ALABAMA A&M | |
| S.19 | @NORTH CAROLINA A&T | 44-7 |
| S.26 | Delaware State | 17-14 |
| 0.10 | Howard | 38-27 |
| 0.17 | @NORFOLK STATE | 35-17 |
| 0.24 | South Carolina State | 13-35 |
| 0.31 | @WINSTON-SALEM STATE | 30-35 |
| N.7 | @BETHUNE-COOKMAN | 6-17 |
| N.14 | Florida A&M | 24-45 |
| N.21 | Morgan State | 17-13 |

***Coach:*** *Donovan Rose* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Pirates* ***2008 Record:*** *6-5*

### HARVARD
*Boston, MA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.19 | @HOLY CROSS | 25-24 |
| S.26 | Brown | 22-24 |
| 0.3 | @LEHIGH | 27-24 |
| 0.10 | @CORNELL | 38-17 |
| 0.17 | Lafayette | 27-13 |
| 0.24 | Princeton | 24-20 |
| 0.31 | Dartmouth | 35-7 |
| N.7 | @COLUMBIA | 42-28 |
| N.14 | Pennsylvania | 24-21 |
| N.21 | @YALE | 10-0 |

***Coach:*** *Tim Murphy* ***Colors:*** *Crimson, Black & White* ***Nickname:*** *Crimson* ***2008 Record:*** *9-1*

### HAWAII
*Honolulu, HI*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.4 | Central Arkansas | |
| S.12 | @WASHINGTON STATE* | 24-10 |
| S.19 | @UNLV | |
| S.30 | @LOUISIANA TECH | 24-14 |
| 0.10 | Fresno State | 32-29 (OT) |
| 0.17 | @IDAHO | 49-17 |
| 0.24 | Boise State | 7-27 |
| 0.31 | @NEVADA | 38-31 |
| N.7 | Utah State | 14-30 |
| N.14 | New Mexico State | 42-30 |
| N.21 | @SAN JOSE STATE | 17-20 |
| N.28 | Navy | |
| D.5 | Wisconsin | |

*@ At Seattle, WA*
***Coach:*** *Greg McMackin*
***Colors:*** *Green, Black, Silver & White*
***Nickname:*** *Warriors* ***2008 Record:*** *7-6*

### HOFSTRA
*Hempstead, NY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Stony Brook | 43-3 |
| S.12 | @BRYANT | |
| S.19 | @RICHMOND | 14-34 |
| S.26 | @WESTERN MICHIGAN | |
| 0.3 | James Madison | 0-56 |
| 0.10 | Maine | 40-41 (OT) |
| 0.17 | @RHODE ISLAND | 23-20 |
| 0.24 | New Hampshire | 25-45 |
| N.7 | @DELAWARE | 0-17 |
| N.14 | @NORTHEASTERN | 42-14 |
| N.21 | Massachusetts | 14-28 |

***Coach:*** *Dave Cohen* ***Colors:*** *Blue, White & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Pride* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

### HOLY CROSS
*Worcester, MA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Georgetown | 38-14 |
| S.12 | Sacred Heart | |
| S.19 | Harvard | 24-25 |
| 0.3 | @NORTHEASTERN | |
| 0.10 | @BROWN | 41-34 |
| 0.17 | Dartmouth | 44-26 |
| 0.24 | Colgate | 27-28 |
| 0.31 | @FORDHAM | 38-17 |
| N.7 | @LEHIGH | 35-21 |
| N.14 | Lafayette | 27-26 |
| N.21 | @BUCKNELL | 34-17 |

***Coach:*** *Tom Gilmore* ***Colors:*** *Royal Purple*
***Nickname:*** *Crusaders* ***2008 Record:*** *7-4*

### HOUSTON
*Houston, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Northwestern State | |
| S.12 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | 37-56 |
| S.26 | Texas Tech | |
| 0.3 | @UTEP | 42-37 |
| 0.10 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | |
| 0.17 | @TULANE | 42-14 |
| 0.24 | Southern Methodist | 44-38 |
| 0.31 | Southern Miss | |
| N.7 | @TULSA | 70-30 |
| N.14 | @UCF | |
| N.21 | Memphis | |
| N.28 | Rice | 42-56 |

***Coach:*** *Kevin Sumlin*
***Colors:*** *Scarlet & White*
***Nickname:*** *Cougars* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

### HOWARD
*Washington, DC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.12 | @RUTGERS | |
| S.19 | @FLORIDA A&M | 24-51 |
| S.26 | @GEORGETOWN | 7-12 |
| 0.3 | Winston-Salem State | 10-34 |
| 0.10 | @HAMPTON | 27-38 |
| 0.17 | @MORGAN STATE | 30-31 (OT) |
| 0.24 | North Carolina A&T | 20-21 |
| 0.31 | @NORFOLK STATE | 12-49 |
| N.7 | South Carolina State | 0-56 |
| N.14 | Bethune-Cookman | 12-14 |
| N.21 | @DELAWARE STATE | 6-10 |

***Coach:*** *Carey Bailey* ***Colors:*** *Blue, White & Red*
***Nickname:*** *Bison* ***2008 Record:*** *1-10*

### IDAHO
*Moscow, ID*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | 20-14 |
| S.12 | @WASHINGTON | |
| S.19 | San Diego State | 17-45 |
| S.26 | @NORTHERN ILLINOIS | |
| 0.3 | Colorado State | |
| 0.10 | @SAN JOSE STATE | 24-30 |
| 0.17 | Hawaii | 17-49 |
| 0.24 | @NEVADA | 14-49 |
| 0.31 | Louisiana Tech | 14-46 |
| N.7 | Fresno State | 32-45 |
| N.14 | @BOISE STATE | 10-45 |
| N.28 | Utah State | 17-42 |

***Coach:*** *Robb Akey* ***Colors:*** *Silver & Vandal Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Vandals* ***2008 Record:*** *2-10*

### IDAHO STATE
*Pocatello, ID*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @ARIZONA STATE | |
| S.12 | @OKLAHOMA | |
| S.19 | @WEBER STATE | 27-59 |
| S.26 | Central Washington | |
| 0.3 | Eastern Washington | 31-45 |
| 0.10 | @SACRAMENTO STATE | 36-33 (OT) |
| 0.17 | Northern Colorado | 9-29 |
| 0.24 | @NORTHERN ARIZONA | 30-52 |
| 0.31 | @MONTANA STATE | 21-33 |
| N.7 | Montana | 10-29 |
| N.14 | Portland State | 13-36 |

***Coach:*** *John Zamberlin* ***Colors:*** *Black & Orange*
***Nickname:*** *Bengals* ***2008 Record:*** *1-11*

### ILLINOIS
*Champaign, IL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Missouri* | 42-52 |
| S.12 | Illinois State | |
| S.26 | @OHIO STATE | 20-30 |
| 0.3 | Penn State | 24-38 |
| 0.10 | Michigan State | |
| 0.17 | @INDIANA# | 55-13 |
| 0.24 | @PURDUE | |
| 0.31 | Michigan | 45-20 |
| N.7 | @MINNESOTA | 20-27 |
| N.14 | Northwestern | 10-27 |
| N.27 | @CINCINNATI | |
| D.5 | Fresno State | |

** At St. Louis, MO*
*# At Commerce, TX*
***Coach:*** *Ron Zook* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Fighting Illini* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

### ILLINOIS STATE
*Normal, IL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | @EASTERN ILLINOIS | 21-25 |
| S.12 | @ILLINOIS | |
| S.19 | Austin Peay | |
| S.26 | South Dakota State | 21-52 |
| 0.3 | @NORTH DAKOTA STATE | 7-25 |
| 0.10 | @SOUTHERN ILLINOIS | 10-17 (OT) |
| 0.17 | Indiana State | 57-6 |
| 0.31 | @MISSOURI STATE | 28-34 |
| N.7 | Western Illinois | 45-48 (OT) |
| N.14 | @YOUNGSTOWN STATE | 54-44 |
| N.21 | Northern Iowa | 17-31 |

***Coach:*** *Brock Spack* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
***Nickname:*** *Redbirds* ***2008 Record:*** *3-8*

### INDIANA
*Bloomington, IN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | Eastern Kentucky | |
| S.12 | Western Michigan | |
| S.19 | @AKRON | |
| S.26 | @MICHIGAN | |
| 0.3 | Ohio State | |
| 0.10 | @VIRGINIA | |
| 0.17 | Illinois | 13-55 |
| 0.24 | @NORTHWESTERN | 21-19 |
| 0.31 | @IOWA | 9-45 |
| N.7 | Wisconsin | 20-55 |
| N.14 | @PENN STATE | 7-34 |
| N.21 | Purdue | 10-62 |

***Coach:*** *Bill Lynch* ***Colors:*** *Cream & Crimson*
***Nickname:*** *Hoosiers* ***2008 Record:*** *3-9*

### INDIANA STATE
*Terre Haute, IN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A.27 | Quincy | |
| S.5 | @LOUISVILLE | |
| S.12 | Eastern Illinois | 3-38 |
| S.19 | @SOUTH DAKOTA STATE | 9-49 |
| S.26 | Youngstown State | 21-35 |
| 0.3 | @NORTHERN IOWA | 0-28 |
| 0.17 | @ILLINOIS STATE | 6-57 |
| 0.24 | Western Illinois | 0-56 |
| 0.31 | Southern Illinois | 7-60 |
| N.7 | @MISSOURI STATE | 24-27 (OT) |
| N.14 | North Dakota State | 7-34 |

***Coach:*** *Trent Miles* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Sycamores* ***2008 Record:*** *0-12*

### IOWA
*Iowa City, IA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Northern Iowa | |
| S.12 | @IOWA STATE | 17-5 |
| S.19 | Arizona | |
| S.26 | @PENN STATE | 24-23 |
| 0.3 | Arkansas State | |
| 0.10 | Michigan | |
| 0.17 | @WISCONSIN | 38-16 |
| 0.24 | @MICHIGAN STATE | 13-16 |
| 0.31 | Indiana | 45-9 |
| N.7 | Northwestern | 17-22 |
| N.14 | @OHIO STATE | |
| N.21 | Minnesota | 55-0 |

***Coach:*** *Kirk Ferentz* ***Colors:*** *Gold & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Hawkeyes* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

### IOWA STATE
*Ames, IA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | North Dakota State | |
| S.12 | Iowa | 5-17 |
| S.19 | @KENT STATE | 48-28 |
| S.26 | Army | |
| 0.3 | Kansas State* | 30-38 |
| 0.10 | @KANSAS | 33-35 |
| 0.17 | Baylor | 10-38 |
| 0.24 | @NEBRASKA | 7-35 |
| 0.31 | @TEXAS A&M | 35-49 |
| N.7 | Oklahoma State | 17-59 |
| N.14 | Colorado | 24-28 |
| N.21 | @MISSOURI | 20-52 |

** At Kansas City, MO*
***Coach:*** *Paul Rhoads* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Cyclones* ***2008 Record:*** *2-10*

### JACKSON STATE
*Jackson, MS*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | |
| S.12 | Tennessee State* | 18-41 |
| S.19 | Grambling State | 9-41 |
| 0.3 | @SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY# | 28-35 |
| 0.10 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 21-10 |
| 0.17 | Texas Southern | 30-14 |
| 0.24 | @MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE | 29-27 |
| N.7 | Alabama State | 20-0 |
| N.14 | @ALABAMA A&M | 37-21 |
| N.21 | Alcorn State | 26-21 |

** At Memphis, TN*
*# At Jackson, MS*
***Coach:*** *Rick Comegy* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

### JACKSONVILLE
*Jacksonville, FL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @WEBBER INTERNATIONAL | 51-7 |
| S.12 | @SAMFORD | |
| S.19 | Old Dominion | |
| 0.3 | Davidson | 35-38 |
| 0.10 | @MARIST | |
| 0.17 | Morehead State | 40-9 |
| 0.24 | @SAN DIEGO | 30-29 |
| 0.31 | @DRAKE | 41-9 |
| N.7 | Valparaiso | 40-24 |
| N.14 | Butler | 45-9 |
| N.21 | @CAMPBELL | 52-0 |

***Coach:*** *Kerwin Bell* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
***Nickname:*** *Dolphins* ***2008 Record:*** *9-4*

### JACKSONVILLE STATE
*Jacksonville, AL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @GEORGIA TECH | 14-41 |
| S.12 | @FLORIDA STATE | |
| S.19 | @ALABAMA A&M | 45-18 |
| S.26 | @NICHOLLS STATE | |
| 0.3 | Tennessee-Martin | 30-31 |
| 0.10 | @MURRAY STATE | 31-21 |
| 0.24 | Eastern Illinois | 23-10 |
| 0.31 | @AUSTIN PEAY | 35-22 |
| N.7 | @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE | 38-17 |
| N.14 | Tennessee Tech | 41-17 |
| N.21 | Eastern Kentucky | 35-38 |

***Coach:*** *Jack Crowe* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
***Nickname:*** *Gamecocks* ***2008 Record:*** *8-3*

### JAMES MADISON
*Harrisonburg, VA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.12 | @MARYLAND | |
| S.19 | Virginia Military | |
| S.26 | @LIBERTY | |
| 0.3 | @HOFSTRA | 56-0 |
| 0.10 | Richmond | 38-31 |
| 0.17 | Villanova | 31-27 |
| 0.24 | @WILLIAM & MARY | 48-24 |
| 0.31 | @DELAWARE | 41-7 |
| N.7 | Maine | 24-10 |
| N.14 | @MASSACHUSETTS | 52-38 |
| N.21 | Towson | 58-27 |

***Coach:*** *Mickey Matthews*
***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Dukes*
***2008 Record:*** *12-2*

### KANSAS
*Lawrence, KS*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Northern Colorado | |
| S.12 | @UTEP | |
| S.19 | Duke | |
| S.26 | Southern Miss | |
| 0.10 | Iowa State | 35-33 |
| 0.17 | @COLORADO | 30-14 |
| 0.24 | Oklahoma | 31-45 |
| 0.31 | @TEXAS TECH | 21-63 |
| N.7 | @KANSAS STATE | 52-21 |
| N.14 | Nebraska | 35-45 |
| N.21 | @TEXAS | 7-35 |
| N.28 | Missouri* | 40-37 |

** At Kansas City, MO*
***Coach:*** *Mark Mangino* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Jayhawks* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

### KANSAS STATE
*Manhattan, KS*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Massachusetts | |
| S.12 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE | 45-37 |
| S.19 | @UCLA | |
| S.26 | Tennessee Tech | |
| 0.3 | @IOWA STATE* | 38-30 |
| 0.10 | @TEXAS TECH | 28-58 |
| 0.17 | Texas A&M | 44-30 |
| 0.24 | Colorado | 13-14 |
| 0.31 | @OKLAHOMA | 35-58 |
| N.7 | Kansas | 21-52 |
| N.14 | Missouri | 24-41 |
| N.21 | @NEBRASKA | 28-56 |

** At Kansas City, MO*
***Coach:*** *Bill Snyder* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White*
***Nickname:*** *Wildcats* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

### KENT STATE
*Kent, OH*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | Coastal Carolina | |
| S.12 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | 0-21 |
| S.19 | Iowa State | 28-48 |
| S.26 | Miami (OH) | 54-21 |
| 0.3 | @BAYLOR | |
| 0.10 | Bowling Green | 30-45 |
| 0.17 | @EASTERN MICHIGAN | |
| 0.24 | @OHIO | 19-26 |
| 0.31 | Western Michigan | |
| N.7 | @AKRON | 27-30 (OT) |
| N.21 | @TEMPLE | 41-38 |
| N.27 | Buffalo | 24-21 |

***Coach:*** *Doug Martin*
***Colors:*** *Navy Blue & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Golden Flashes* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

### KENTUCKY
*Lexington, KY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @MIAMI (OH)* | |
| S.19 | Louisville | 27-2 |
| S.26 | Florida | 5-63 |
| 0.3 | Alabama | 14-17 |
| 0.10 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | 17-24 |
| 0.17 | @AUBURN | |
| 0.24 | Louisiana-Monroe | |
| 0.31 | Mississippi State | 14-13 |
| N.7 | Eastern Kentucky | |
| N.14 | @VANDERBILT | 24-31 |
| N.21 | @GEORGIA | 38-42 |
| N.28 | Tennessee | 10-28 |

** At Cincinnati, OH*
***Coach:*** *Rich Brooks* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Wildcats* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

### LAFAYETTE
*Easton, PA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.12 | @GEORGETOWN | 24-6 |
| S.19 | Liberty | 35-21 |
| S.26 | Pennsylvania | 24-17 |
| 0.3 | @YALE | |
| 0.10 | Columbia | 13-3 |
| 0.17 | @HARVARD | 13-27 |
| 0.24 | Fordham | 48-13 |
| 0.31 | Bucknell | 38-21 |
| N.7 | Colgate | 13-21 |
| N.14 | @HOLY CROSS | 26-27 |
| N.21 | @LEHIGH | 15-31 |

***Coach:*** *Frank Tavani* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
***Nickname:*** *Leopards* ***2008 Record:*** *7-4*

### LEHIGH
*Bethlehem, PA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Central Connecticut State | |
| S.12 | @VILLANOVA | 14-33 |
| S.26 | Princeton | 7-10 |
| 0.3 | Harvard | 24-27 |
| 0.10 | Georgetown | 33-13 |
| 0.17 | Yale | |
| 0.24 | @BUCKNELL | 31-15 |
| 0.31 | @COLGATE | 33-34 |
| N.7 | Holy Cross | 21-35 |
| N.14 | @FORDHAM | 45-24 |
| N.21 | Lafayette | 31-15 |

***Coach:*** *Andy Coen* ***Colors:*** *Brown & White*
***Nickname:*** *Mountain Hawks* ***2008 Record:*** *5-6*

### LIBERTY
*Lynchburg, VA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @WEST VIRGINIA | |
| S.12 | North Carolina Central | |
| S.19 | @LAFAYETTE | 21-35 |
| S.26 | James Madison | |
| 0.3 | West Virginia Wesleyan | |
| 0.17 | Coastal Carolina | 43-38 |
| 0.24 | @CHARLESTON SOUTHERN | 42-0 |
| 0.31 | Presbyterian | 28-31 |
| N.7 | Virginia Military | 38-26 |
| N.14 | @GARDNER-WEBB | 30-10 |
| N.21 | @STONY BROOK | 33-0 |

***Coach:*** *Danny Rocco* ***Colors:*** *Red, White & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Flames* ***2008 Record:*** *10-2*

### LOUISIANA TECH
*Ruston, LA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @AUBURN | |
| S.12 | @NAVY | |
| S.19 | Nicholls State | |
| S.30 | Hawaii | 14-24 |
| 0.9 | @NEVADA | 31-35 |
| 0.17 | New Mexico State | 35-31 |
| 0.24 | @UTAH STATE | 45-38 |
| 0.31 | @IDAHO | 46-14 |
| N.6 | Boise State | 3-38 |
| N.14 | @LSU | |
| N.21 | @FRESNO STATE | 38-35 |
| D.5 | San Jose State | 21-0 |

***Coach:*** *Derek Dooley* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

### LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE
*Lafayette, LA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Southern University | |
| S.12 | Kansas State | 37-45 |
| S.19 | @LSU | |
| S.26 | @NEBRASKA | |
| 0.10 | North Texas | 59-30 |
| 0.17 | @WESTERN KENTUCKY | |
| 0.24 | Florida Atlantic | 29-40 |
| 0.31 | @FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL | 49-20 |
| N.7 | @ARKANSAS STATE | 28-23 |
| N.14 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE | 42-28 |
| N.21 | Louisiana-Monroe | 44-35 |
| N.28 | Troy | 3-48 |

***Coach:*** *Rickey Bustle* ***Colors:*** *Vermillion & White*
***Nickname:*** *Ragin' Cajuns* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

### LOUISIANA-MONROE
*Monroe, LA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @TEXAS | |
| S.12 | Texas Southern | |
| S.19 | @ARIZONA STATE | |
| S.26 | @FLORIDA ATLANTIC | 28-29 |
| 0.3 | Florida International | 31-27 |
| 0.13 | Arkansas State | 29-37 |
| 0.24 | @KENTUCKY | |
| 0.31 | @TROY | 31-30 |
| N.7 | @NORTH TEXAS | 35-23 |
| N.14 | Western Kentucky | |
| N.21 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE | 35-44 |
| N.28 | Middle Tennessee | 21-24 |

***Coach:*** *Charlie Weatherbie*
***Colors:*** *Maroon & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Warhawks*
***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

### LOUISVILLE
*Louisville, KY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Indiana State | |
| S.19 | @KENTUCKY | 2-27 |
| S.26 | @UTAH | |
| 0.2 | Pittsburgh | 7-41 |
| 0.10 | Southern Miss | |
| 0.17 | @CONNECTICUT | 21-26 |
| 0.24 | @CINCINNATI | 20-28 |
| 0.31 | Arkansas State | |
| N.7 | @WEST VIRGINIA | 21-35 |
| N.14 | Syracuse | 21-28 |
| N.21 | @SOUTH FLORIDA | 24-20 |
| N.27 | Rutgers | 14-63 |

***Coach:*** *Steve Kragthorpe*
***Colors:*** *Red, White & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Cardinals* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

### LSU
*Baton Rouge, LA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @WASHINGTON | |
| S.12 | Vanderbilt | |
| S.19 | Louisiana-Lafayette | |
| S.26 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | 34-24 |
| 0.3 | @GEORGIA | 38-52 |
| 0.10 | Florida | 21-51 |
| 0.24 | Auburn | 26-21 |
| 0.31 | Tulane | 35-10 |
| N.7 | @ALABAMA | 21-27 (OT) |
| N.14 | Louisiana Tech | |
| N.21 | @OLE MISS | 13-31 |
| N.28 | Arkansas | 30-31 |

***Coach:*** *Les Miles* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

### MAINE
*Orono, ME*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.12 | @NORTHEASTERN | 20-0 |
| S.19 | @ALBANY | |
| S.26 | @SYRACUSE | |
| 0.3 | Delaware | 27-10 |
| 0.10 | @HOFSTRA | 41-40 (OT) |
| 0.17 | Richmond | 17-44 |
| 0.31 | Massachusetts | 21-20 |
| N.7 | @JAMES MADISON | 10-24 |
| N.14 | Rhode Island | 37-7 |
| N.21 | @NEW HAMPSHIRE | 24-28 |

***Coach:*** *Jack Cosgrove* ***Colors:*** *White & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Black Bears* ***2008 Record:*** *8-5*

### MARIST
*Poughkeepsie, NY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @SACRED HEART | 16-28 |
| S.12 | Drake | |
| S.19 | @SAN DIEGO | 22-40 |
| S.26 | @BUCKNELL | 17-21 |
| 0.3 | Campbell | |
| 0.10 | Jacksonville | |
| 0.24 | @MOREHEAD STATE | |
| 0.31 | Valparaiso | |
| N.7 | Georgetown | 12-13 |
| N.14 | @DAVIDSON | 24-19 |
| N.21 | @DAYTON | |

***Coach:*** *Jim Parady* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
***Nickname:*** *Red Foxes* ***2008 Record:*** *4-7*

### MARSHALL
*Huntington, WV*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Southern Illinois | |
| S.12 | @VIRGINIA TECH | |
| S.19 | Bowling Green | |
| S.26 | @MEMPHIS | 17-16 |
| 0.3 | East Carolina | 16-19 (OT) |
| 0.10 | @TULANE | |
| 0.17 | @WEST VIRGINIA | 3-27 |
| 0.24 | UAB | 21-23 |
| N.1 | @UCF | 14-30 |
| N.14 | Southern Miss | 34-27 |
| N.21 | Southern Methodist | |
| N.28 | @UTEP | |

***Coach:*** *Mark Snyder* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
***Nickname:*** *Thundering Herd* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

### MARYLAND
*College Park, MD*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @CALIFORNIA | 35-27 |
| S.12 | James Madison | |
| S.19 | Middle Tennessee | 14-24 |
| S.26 | Rutgers | |
| 0.3 | Clemson | 20-17 |
| 0.10 | @WAKE FOREST | 26-0 |
| 0.17 | Virginia | 0-31 |
| 0.24 | @DUKE | |
| N.7 | @NORTH CAROLINA STATE | 27-24 |
| N.14 | Virginia Tech | 13-23 |
| N.21 | @FLORIDA STATE | 3-37 |
| N.28 | Boston College | 21-28 |

***Coach:*** *Ralph Friedgen*
***Colors:*** *Red, White, Black & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Terrapins* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

### MASSACHUSETTS
*Amherst, MA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @KANSAS STATE | |
| S.12 | Albany | 28-16 |
| S.19 | Rhode Island | 49-0 |
| S.26 | Stony Brook | |
| 0.10 | @DELAWARE | 17-7 |
| 0.17 | New Hampshire | 21-52 |
| 0.24 | @RICHMOND | 15-30 |
| 0.31 | @MAINE | 20-21 |
| N.7 | Northeastern | 28-24 |
| N.14 | James Madison | 38-52 |
| N.21 | @HOFSTRA | 28-14 |

***Coach:*** *Kevin Morris* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
***Nickname:*** *Minutemen* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

### McNEESE STATE
*Lake Charles, LA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Henderson State | |
| S.12 | @APPALACHIAN STATE | |
| S.19 | Savannah State | |
| S.26 | @TULANE | |
| 0.10 | @STEPHEN F. AUSTIN | 42-31 |
| 0.17 | Northwestern State | 24-17 |
| 0.24 | Southeastern Louisiana | 24-14 |
| 0.31 | @NICHOLLS STATE | 35-38 |
| N.7 | Sam Houston State | 28-17 |
| N.14 | @TEXAS STATE | 42-45 |
| N.21 | Central Arkansas | 30-47 |

***Coach:*** *Matt Viator* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Cowboys* ***2008 Record:*** *7-4*

### MEMPHIS
*Memphis, TN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Ole Miss | 24-41 |
| S.12 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE | |
| S.19 | Tennessee-Martin | |
| S.26 | Marshall | 16-17 |
| 0.3 | @UCF | 21-28 |
| 0.10 | UTEP | |
| 0.17 | @SOUTHERN MISS | 36-30 |
| 0.27 | East Carolina | 10-30 |
| N.7 | @TENNESSEE | |
| N.14 | UAB | 33-30 |
| N.21 | @HOUSTON | |
| N.28 | @TULSA | |

***Coach:*** *Tommy West* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gray*
***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

### MIAMI (FL)
*Coral Gables, FL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.7 | @FLORIDA STATE | 39-41 |
| S.17 | Georgia Tech | 23-41 |
| S.26 | @VIRGINIA TECH | 16-14 |
| 0.3 | Oklahoma | |
| 0.10 | Florida A&M | |
| 0.17 | @UCF | 20-14 |
| 0.24 | Clemson | |
| 0.31 | @WAKE FOREST | 16-10 |
| N.7 | Virginia | 24-17 (OT) |
| N.14 | @NORTH CAROLINA | 24-28 |
| N.21 | Duke | 49-31 |
| N.28 | @SOUTH FLORIDA | |

***Coach:*** *Randy Shannon*
***Colors:*** *Orange, Green & White*
***Nickname:*** *Hurricanes* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

### MIAMI (OH)
*Oxford, OH*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Kentucky* | |
| S.12 | @BOISE STATE | |
| S.19 | @WESTERN MICHIGAN | |
| S.26 | @KENT STATE | 21-54 |
| 0.3 | Cincinnati | 20-45 |
| 0.10 | @NORTHWESTERN | |
| 0.17 | @OHIO | 26-41 |
| 0.24 | Northern Illinois | 13-17 |
| 0.31 | Toledo | 14-42 |
| N.5 | @TEMPLE | 10-28 |
| N.12 | Bowling Green | 27-20 |
| N.18 | Buffalo | 17-37 |

** At Cincinnati, OH*
***Coach:*** *Mike Haywood* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
***Nickname:*** *RedHawks* ***2008 Record:*** *2-10*

### MICHIGAN
*Ann Arbor, MI*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Western Michigan | |
| S.12 | Notre Dame | 17-35 |
| S.19 | Eastern Michigan | |
| S.26 | Indiana | |
| 0.3 | @MICHIGAN STATE | 21-35 |
| 0.10 | @IOWA | |
| 0.17 | Delaware State | |
| 0.24 | Penn State | 17-46 |
| 0.31 | @ILLINOIS | 20-45 |
| N.7 | Purdue | 42-48 |
| N.14 | @WISCONSIN | 27-25 |
| N.21 | Ohio State | 7-42 |

***Coach:*** *Rich Rodriguez* ***Colors:*** *Maize & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Wolverines* ***2008 Record:*** *3-9*

### MICHIGAN STATE
*East Lansing, MI*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Montana State | |
| S.12 | Central Michigan | |
| S.19 | @NOTRE DAME | 23-7 |
| S.26 | @WISCONSIN | 25-24 |
| 0.3 | Michigan | 35-21 |
| 0.10 | @ILLINOIS | |
| 0.17 | Northwestern | 37-20 |
| 0.24 | Iowa | 16-13 |
| 0.31 | @MINNESOTA | |
| N.7 | Western Michigan | |
| N.14 | @PURDUE | 21-7 |
| N.21 | Penn State | 18-49 |

***Coach:*** *Mark Dantonio* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
***Nickname:*** *Spartans* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

### MIDDLE TENNESSEE
*Murfreesboro, TN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @CLEMSON | |
| S.12 | Memphis | |
| S.19 | @MARYLAND | 24-14 |
| S.26 | @NORTH TEXAS | 52-13 |
| 0.6 | @TROY | 17-31 |
| 0.17 | Mississippi State | 22-31 |
| 0.24 | Western Kentucky | 21-10 |
| 0.31 | @FLORIDA ATLANTIC | 14-13 |
| N.7 | Florida International | 21-31 |
| N.14 | Louisiana-Lafayette | 28-42 |
| N.21 | Arkansas State | 14-31 |
| N.28 | @LOUISIANA-MONROE | 24-21 |

***Coach:*** *Rick Stockstill* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Blue Raiders* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

### MINNESOTA
*Minneapolis, MN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @SYRACUSE | |
| S.12 | Air Force | |
| S.19 | California | |
| S.26 | @NORTHWESTERN | 17-24 |
| 0.3 | Wisconsin | 32-35 |
| 0.10 | Purdue | 17-6 |
| 0.17 | @PENN STATE | |
| 0.24 | @OHIO STATE | 21-34 |
| 0.31 | Michigan State | |
| N.7 | Illinois | 27-20 |
| N.14 | South Dakota State | |
| N.21 | @IOWA | 0-55 |

***Coach:*** *Tim Brewster* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Golden Gophers* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

### MISSISSIPPI STATE
*Starkville, MS*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Jackson State | |
| S.12 | @AUBURN | 2-3 |
| S.19 | @VANDERBILT | 17-14 |
| S.26 | LSU | 24-34 |
| 0.3 | Georgia Tech | 7-38 |
| 0.10 | Houston | |
| 0.17 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE | 31-22 |
| 0.24 | Florida | |
| 0.31 | @KENTUCKY | 13-14 |
| N.14 | Alabama | 7-32 |
| N.21 | @ARKANSAS* | 31-28 |
| N.28 | Ole Miss | 0-45 |

** At Little Rock, AR*
***Coach:*** *Dan Mullen* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
***Nickname:*** *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

### MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
*Itta Bena, MS*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @ARKANSAS STATE | |
| S.19 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff* | 0-34 |
| S.26 | Alabama State | 7-47 |
| 0.3 | Texas College | 38-0 |
| 0.10 | @ALCORN STATE | 21-35 |
| 0.17 | @PRAIRIE VIEW A&M | 15-49 |
| 0.24 | Jackson State | 27-29 |
| 0.31 | @GRAMBLING STATE | 14-35 |
| N.7 | Texas Southern | 58-44 |
| N.14 | Lincoln (MO) | |
| N.21 | @ALABAMA A&M | 23-58 |

** At Chicago, IL*
***Coach:*** *Willie Totten* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
***Nickname:*** *Delta Devils* ***2008 Record:*** *3-8*

### MISSOURI
*Columbia, MO*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @ILLINOIS* | 52-42 |
| S.12 | Bowling Green | |
| S.19 | Furman | |
| S.25 | @NEVADA | 69-17 |
| 0.8 | Nebraska | 52-17 |
| 0.17 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | 23-28 |
| 0.24 | Texas | 31-56 |
| 0.31 | @COLORADO | 58-0 |
| N.7 | Baylor | 31-28 |
| N.14 | @KANSAS STATE | 41-24 |
| N.21 | Iowa State | 52-20 |
| N.28 | @KANSAS# | 37-40 |

** At St. Louis, MO*
*# At Kansas City, MO*
***Coach:*** *Gary Pinkel* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *9-4*

### MISSOURI STATE
*Springfield, MO*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @ARKANSAS* | |
| S.12 | Tennessee-Martin | |
| S.19 | Murray State | |
| S.26 | Northern Iowa | 0-42 |
| O.3 | @YOUNGSTOWN STATE | 42-28 |
| O.10 | South Dakota State | 13-43 |
| O.17 | @WESTERN ILLINOIS | 21-33 |
| O.24 | @NORTH DAKOTA STATE | 27-48 |
| O.31 | Illinois State | 34-28 |
| N.7 | Indiana State | 27-24 (OT) |
| N.14 | @SOUTHERN ILLINOIS | 17-23 |

** At Little Rock, AR*
**Coach:** *Terry Allen* **Colors:** *Maroon & White*
**Nickname:** *Bears* **2008 Record:** *4-7*

### MONMOUTH
*West Long Branch, NJ*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @COLGATE | |
| S.12 | @COASTAL CAROLINA | 7-26 |
| S.19 | Duquesne | 37-14 |
| S.26 | @OLD DOMINION | |
| O.10 | Wagner | 31-17 |
| O.17 | @SACRED HEART | 19-7 |
| O.24 | Albany | 17-35 |
| O.31 | Bryant | 30-17 |
| N.7 | @ST. FRANCIS (PA) | 42-15 |
| N.14 | @CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE | 30-20 |
| N.21 | Robert Morris | 34-26 |

**Coach:** *Kevin Callahan*
**Colors:** *Blue & White*
**Nickname:** *Hawks* **2008 Record:** *7-4*

### MONTANA
*Missoula, MT*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Western State | |
| S.12 | @UC-DAVIS | 29-24 |
| S.19 | Portland State | 29-12 |
| S.26 | @NORTHERN ARIZONA | 45-10 |
| O.10 | Cal Poly | 30-28 |
| O.17 | Eastern Washington | 19-3 |
| O.24 | @SACRAMENTO STATE | 43-7 |
| O.31 | Weber State | 24-13 |
| N.7 | @IDAHO STATE | 29-10 |
| N.14 | Northern Colorado | 41-20 |
| N.21 | @MONTANA STATE | 35-3 |

**Coach:** *Bobby Hauck* **Colors:** *Copper, Silver & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Grizzlies* **2008 Record:** *14-2*

### MONTANA STATE
*Bozeman, MT*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @MICHIGAN STATE | |
| S.12 | Dixie State | |
| S.26 | @NORTHERN COLORADO | 20-7 |
| O.3 | @WEBER STATE | 12-35 |
| O.10 | Northern Arizona | 25-23 |
| O.17 | South Dakota | 37-18 |
| O.24 | @EASTERN WASHINGTON | 17-34 |
| O.31 | Idaho State | 33-21 |
| N.7 | @PORTLAND STATE | 49-32 |
| N.14 | Sacramento State | 31-20 |
| N.21 | Montana | 3-35 |

**Coach:** *Rob Ash* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Bobcats* **2008 Record:** *7-5*

### MOREHEAD STATE
*Morehead, KY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Southern Virginia | 49-6 |
| S.12 | @ST. FRANCIS (PA) | 36-21 |
| S.19 | @NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL | |
| S.26 | Butler | 21-31 |
| O.3 | Dayton | 14-13 |
| O.10 | @DAVIDSON | 26-13 |
| O.17 | @JACKSONVILLE | 9-40 |
| O.24 | Marist | |
| O.31 | @CAMPBELL | 42-7 |
| N.14 | San Diego | 17-41 |
| N.21 | @VALPARAISO | 44-10 |

**Coach:** *Matt Ballard* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Eagles* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

### MORGAN STATE
*Baltimore, MD*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.12 | @AKRON | |
| S.19 | Winston-Salem State* | 21-7 |
| S.26 | Towson | 16-21 |
| O.3 | @BETHUNE-COOKMAN | 27-31 |
| O.10 | North Carolina A&T | 41-3 |
| O.17 | Howard | 31-30 (OT) |
| O.24 | @DELAWARE STATE | 20-3 |
| O.31 | Florida A&M | 13-10 |
| N.7 | Norfolk State | 9-35 |
| N.14 | @SOUTH CAROLINA STATE | 0-32 |
| N.21 | @HAMPTON | 13-17 |

** At East Rutherford, NY*
**Coach:** *Donald Hill-Eley* **Colors:** *Blue & Orange*
**Nickname:** *Bears* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

### MURRAY STATE
*Murray, KY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | Kentucky Wesleyan | |
| S.12 | @NORTH CAROLINA STATE | |
| S.19 | @MISSOURI STATE | |
| S.26 | Eastern Kentucky | 7-34 |
| O.10 | Jacksonville State | 21-31 |
| O.17 | @TENNESSEE STATE | 24-17 |
| O.24 | @TENNESSEE-MARTIN | 38-63 |
| O.31 | Eastern Illinois | 6-34 |
| N.7 | Austin Peay | 32-12 |
| N.14 | @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE | 17-10 |
| N.21 | @TENNESSEE TECH | 51-21 |

**Coach:** *Matt Griffin* **Colors:** *Navy & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Racers* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

### NAVY
*Annapolis, MD*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @OHIO STATE | |
| S.12 | Louisiana Tech | |
| S.19 | @PITTSBURGH | 21-42 |
| S.26 | Western Kentucky | |
| O.3 | Air Force | 33-27 |
| O.10 | @RICE | |
| O.17 | @SOUTHERN METHODIST | 34-7 |
| O.24 | Wake Forest | 24-17 |
| O.31 | Temple | 33-27 (OT) |
| N.7 | @NOTRE DAME | 21-27 |
| N.14 | Delaware | |
| N.28 | @HAWAII | |
| D.12 | Army* | 34-0 |

** At Philadelphia, PA*
**Coach:** *Ken Niumatalolo* **Colors:** *Navy Blue & Gold* **Nickname:** *Midshipmen* **2008 Record:** *8-4*

### NEBRASKA
*Lincoln, NE*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Florida Atlantic | |
| S.12 | Arkansas State | |
| S.19 | @VIRGINIA TECH | 30-35 |
| S.26 | Louisiana-Lafayette | |
| O.8 | @MISSOURI | 17-52 |
| O.17 | Texas Tech | 31-37 (OT) |
| O.24 | Iowa State | 35-7 |
| O.31 | @BAYLOR | 32-20 |
| N.7 | Oklahoma | 28-62 |
| N.14 | @KANSAS | 45-35 |
| N.21 | Kansas State | 56-28 |
| N.27 | @COLORADO | 40-31 |

**Coach:** *Bo Pelini* **Colors:** *Scarlet & Cream*
**Nickname:** *Cornhuskers* **2008 Record:** *8-4*

### NEVADA
*Reno, NV*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @NOTRE DAME | |
| S.19 | @COLORADO STATE | |
| S.25 | Missouri | 17-69 |
| O.3 | UNLV | 49-27 |
| O.9 | Louisiana Tech | 35-31 |
| O.17 | @UTAH STATE | 44-17 |
| O.24 | Idaho | 49-14 |
| O.31 | Hawaii | 31-38 |
| N.8 | @SAN JOSE STATE | 41-17 |
| N.14 | Fresno State | 41-28 |
| N.21 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | 45-48 |
| N.27 | @BOISE STATE | 34-41 |

**Coach:** *Chris Ault* **Colors:** *Silver & Navy Blue*
**Nickname:** *Wolf Pack* **2008 Record:** *7-5*

### NEW HAMPSHIRE
*Durham, NH*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | St. Francis (PA) | |
| S.12 | @BALL STATE | |
| S.26 | Dartmouth | 42-6 |
| O.3 | @TOWSON | 42-14 |
| O.10 | Villanova | 13-24 |
| O.17 | @MASSACHUSETTS | 52-21 |
| O.24 | @HOFSTRA | 45-25 |
| O.31 | Northeastern | 33-21 |
| N.7 | Rhode Island | 51-43 |
| N.14 | @WILLIAM & MARY | 34-38 |
| N.21 | Maine | 28-24 |

**Coach:** *Sean McDonnell* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
**Nickname:** *Wildcats* **2008 Record:** *10-3*

### NEW MEXICO
*Albuquerque, NM*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @TEXAS A&M | 22-28 |
| S.12 | Tulsa | 14-56 |
| S.19 | Air Force | 10-23 |
| S.26 | New Mexico State | 35-24 |
| O.3 | @TEXAS TECH | |
| O.10 | @WYOMING | 24-0 |
| O.24 | UNLV | 20-27 |
| O.31 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | 70-7 |
| N.7 | @UTAH | 10-13 |
| N.14 | Brigham Young | 3-21 |
| N.21 | Colorado State | 6-20 |
| N.28 | @TCU | 3-26 |

**Coach:** *Mike Locksley* **Colors:** *Cherry & Silver*
**Nickname:** *Lobos* **2008 Record:** *4-8*

### NEW MEXICO STATE
*Las Cruces, NM*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Idaho | 14-20 |
| S.12 | Prairie View A&M | |
| S.19 | UTEP | 34-33 |
| S.26 | @NEW MEXICO | 24-35 |
| O.3 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | |
| O.10 | Utah State | 2-47 |
| O.17 | @LOUISIANA TECH | 31-35 |
| O.24 | Fresno State | 17-24 |
| O.31 | @OHIO STATE | |
| N.14 | @HAWAII | 30-42 |
| N.21 | Nevada | 48-45 |
| N.28 | @SAN JOSE STATE | 14-31 |
| D.5 | @BOISE STATE | 0-49 |

**Coach:** *DeWayne Walker* **Colors:** *Crimson & White*
**Nickname:** *Aggies* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

### NICHOLLS STATE
*Thibodaux, LA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @AIR FORCE | |
| S.12 | Duquesne | |
| S.19 | @LOUISIANA TECH | |
| S.26 | Jacksonville State | |
| O.10 | @SAM HOUSTON STATE | 37-47 |
| O.17 | Texas State | 10-34 |
| O.24 | @CENTRAL ARKANSAS | 20-17 |
| O.31 | McNeese State | 38-35 |
| N.7 | @STEPHEN F. AUSTIN | 39-50 |
| N.14 | Northwestern State | 28-36 |
| N.19 | @SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA | 35-28 |

**Coach:** *Jay Thomas* **Colors:** *Red & Gray*
**Nickname:** *Colonels* **2008 Record:** *3-6*

### NORFOLK STATE
*Norfolk, VA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Virginia State | 47-7 |
| S.12 | @NORTH CAROLINA A&T | 27-21 |
| S.19 | William & Mary | 12-42 |
| S.26 | Bethune-Cookman | 17-33 |
| O.10 | South Carolina State | 23-24 |
| O.17 | Hampton | 17-35 |
| O.24 | @FLORIDA A&M | 28-31 |
| O.31 | Howard | 49-12 |
| N.7 | @MORGAN STATE | 35-9 |
| N.14 | @DELAWARE STATE | 28-34 |
| N.21 | Winston-Salem State | 17-14 |

**Coach:** *Pete Adrian* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Spartans* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

### NORTH CAROLINA
*Chapel Hill, NC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Citadel | |
| S.12 | @CONNECTICUT | 38-12 |
| S.19 | East Carolina | |
| S.26 | @GEORGIA TECH | 28-7 |
| O.3 | Virginia | 13-16 (OT) |
| O.10 | Georgia Southern | |
| O.22 | Florida State | |
| O.29 | @VIRGINIA TECH | 17-20 |
| N.7 | Duke | 28-20 |
| N.14 | Miami (FL) | 28-24 |
| N.21 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | 45-24 |
| N.28 | @NORTH CAROLINA STATE | 10-41 |

**Coach:** *Butch Davis* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
**Nickname:** *Tar Heels* **2008 Record:** *8-4*

### NORTH CAROLINA A&T
*Greensboro, NC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @WINSTON-SALEM STATE | 14-8 |
| S.12 | Norfolk State | 21-27 |
| S.19 | Hampton | 7-44 |
| S.26 | @COASTAL CAROLINA | 7-20 |
| O.3 | North Carolina Central | 27-28 |
| O.10 | @MORGAN STATE | 3-41 |
| O.24 | @HOWARD | 21-20 |
| O.31 | Bethune-Cookman | 14-24 |
| N.7 | @FLORIDA A&M | 7-45 |
| N.21 | @SOUTH CAROLINA STATE | 0-55 |

**Coach:** *Alonzo Lee* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Aggies* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

### NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL
*Durham, NC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @HAMPTON | |
| S.12 | @LIBERTY | |
| S.19 | Morehead State | |
| S.26 | @DUKE | |
| O.3 | @NORTH CAROLINA A&T | 28-27 |
| O.10 | @APPALACHIAN STATE | |
| O.17 | Central Methodist | |
| O.31 | Central State | |
| N.7 | @OLD DOMINION | |
| N.14 | @WINSTON-SALEM STATE | 23-16 |
| N.21 | Savannah State | 10-7 |

**Coach:** *Mose Rison* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gray*
**Nickname:** *Eagles* **2008 Record:** *4-7*

### NORTH CAROLINA STATE
*Raleigh, NC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | South Carolina | 0-34 |
| S.12 | Murray State | |
| S.19 | Gardner-Webb | |
| S.26 | Pittsburgh | |
| O.3 | @WAKE FOREST | 21-17 |
| O.10 | Duke | 27-17 |
| O.17 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | 31-38 |
| O.31 | @FLORIDA STATE | 17-26 |
| N.7 | Maryland | 24-27 |
| N.14 | Clemson | 9-27 |
| N.21 | @VIRGINIA TECH | |
| N.28 | North Carolina | 41-10 |

**Coach:** *Tom O'Brien* **Colors:** *Red & White*
**Nickname:** *Wolfpack* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

### NORTH DAKOTA
*Grand Forks, ND*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @TEXAS TECH | |
| S.19 | @NORTHWESTERN STATE | |
| S.26 | @STEPHEN F. AUSTIN | |
| O.3 | South Dakota | 34-31 (OT) |
| O.10 | Stony Brook | |
| O.15 | Sioux Falls | |
| O.24 | @SOUTHERN UTAH | 14-15 |
| O.31 | Cal Poly | |
| N.7 | Southern Oregon | |
| N.14 | @UC-DAVIS | 21-34 |
| N.28 | @CENTRAL ARKANSAS | |

**Coach:** *Chris Mussman*
**Colors:** *Kelly Green & White*
**Nickname:** *Fighting Sioux* **2008 Record:** *6-4*

### NORTH DAKOTA STATE
*Fargo, ND*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | @IOWA STATE | |
| S.12 | @SAM HOUSTON STATE | |
| S.19 | Wagner | |
| S.26 | @SOUTHERN ILLINOIS | 35-27 |
| O.3 | Illinois State | 25-7 |
| O.10 | Northern Iowa | 13-23 |
| O.17 | @SOUTH DAKOTA STATE | 24-25 |
| O.24 | Missouri State | 48-27 |
| O.31 | @WESTERN ILLINOIS | 22-27 |
| N.14 | @INDIANA STATE | 34-7 |
| N.21 | Youngstown State | 24-32 |

**Coach:** *Craig Bohl* **Colors:** *Green & Yellow*
**Nickname:** *Bison* **2008 Record:** *6-5*

### NORTH TEXAS
*Denton, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | @BALL STATE | |
| S.12 | Ohio | |
| S.19 | @ALABAMA | |
| S.26 | Middle Tennessee | 13-52 |
| O.10 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE | 30-59 |
| O.17 | Florida Atlantic | 13-46 |
| O.24 | @TROY | 17-45 |
| O.31 | Western Kentucky | 51-40 |
| N.7 | Louisiana-Monroe | 23-35 |
| N.14 | @FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL | 10-42 |
| N.21 | Army | |
| N.28 | @ARKANSAS STATE | 28-33 |

**Coach:** *Todd Dodge* **Colors:** *Green & White*
**Nickname:** *Mean Green* **2008 Record:** *1-11*

### NORTHEASTERN
*Boston, MA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | |
| S.12 | Maine | 0-20 |
| S.19 | Youngstown State | |
| S.26 | @VILLANOVA | 14-20 |
| O.3 | Holy Cross | |
| O.10 | William & Mary | 17-38 |
| O.24 | Towson | 35-17 |
| O.31 | @NEW HAMPSHIRE | 21-33 |
| N.7 | @MASSACHUSETTS | 24-28 |
| N.14 | Hofstra | 14-42 |
| N.21 | @RHODE ISLAND | 14-29 |

**Coach:** *Rocky Hager* **Colors:** *Red & Black*
**Nickname:** *Huskies* **2008 Record:** *2-10*

### NORTHERN ARIZONA
*Flagstaff, AZ*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.12 | @ARIZONA | |
| S.19 | Southern Utah | 19-14 |
| S.26 | Montana | 10-45 |
| O.3 | Northern Colorado | 25-22 |
| O.10 | @MONTANA STATE | 23-25 |
| O.17 | @PORTLAND STATE | 37-17 |
| O.24 | Idaho State | 52-30 |
| O.31 | @SACRAMENTO STATE | 42-10 |
| N.7 | @OLE MISS | |
| N.14 | @WEBER STATE | 14-42 |
| N.21 | Eastern Washington | 13-28 |

**Coach:** *Jerome Souers* **Colors:** *Blue, Gold & Sage*
**Nickname:** *Lumberjacks* **2008 Record:** *6-5*

### NORTHERN COLORADO
*Greeley, CO*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @KANSAS | |
| S.12 | San Diego | |
| S.19 | @EASTERN WASHINGTON | 16-31 |
| S.26 | Montana State | 7-20 |
| O.3 | @NORTHERN ARIZONA | 22-25 |
| O.10 | Portland State | 21-24 |
| O.17 | @IDAHO STATE | 29-9 |
| O.24 | Weber State | 10-17 |
| O.31 | South Dakota | |
| N.7 | Sacramento State | 25-45 |
| N.14 | @MONTANA | 20-41 |

**Coach:** *Scott Downing* **Colors:** *Navy & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Bears* **2008 Record:** *1-10*

### NORTHERN ILLINOIS
*De Kalb, IL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @WISCONSIN | |
| S.12 | Western Illinois | |
| S.19 | @PURDUE | |
| S.26 | Idaho | |
| O.3 | Western Michigan | 26-29 |
| O.17 | @TOLEDO | 38-7 |
| O.24 | @MIAMI (OH) | 17-13 |
| O.31 | Akron | |
| N.5 | Eastern Michigan | 37-0 |
| N.12 | Ball State | 14-45 |
| N.21 | @OHIO | |
| N.27 | @CENTRAL MICHIGAN | 30-33 (OT) |

**Coach:** *Jerry Kill* **Colors:** *Cardinal & Black*
**Nickname:** *Huskies* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

### NORTHERN IOWA
*Cedar Falls, IA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @IOWA | |
| S.12 | South Dakota | 24-13 |
| S.19 | St. Francis (PA) | |
| S.26 | @MISSOURI STATE | 42-0 |
| O.3 | Indiana State | 28-0 |
| O.10 | @NORTH DAKOTA STATE | 23-13 |
| O.17 | Southern Illinois | 24-27 |
| O.24 | @SOUTH DAKOTA STATE | 34-20 |
| N.7 | Youngstown State | 21-20 |
| N.14 | Western Illinois | 30-6 |
| N.21 | @ILLINOIS STATE | 31-17 |

**Coach:** *Mark Farley* **Colors:** *Purple & Old Gold*
**Nickname:** *Panthers* **2008 Record:** *12-3*

### NORTHWESTERN
*Evanston, IL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Towson | |
| S.12 | Eastern Michigan | |
| S.19 | @SYRACUSE | 30-10 |
| S.26 | Minnesota | 24-17 |
| O.3 | @PURDUE | 48-26 |
| O.10 | Miami (OH) | |
| O.17 | @MICHIGAN STATE | 20-37 |
| O.24 | Indiana | 19-21 |
| O.31 | Penn State | |
| N.7 | @IOWA | 22-17 |
| N.14 | @ILLINOIS | 27-10 |
| N.21 | Wisconsin | |

**Coach:** *Pat Fitzgerald* **Colors:** *Purple & White*
**Nickname:** *Wildcats* **2008 Record:** *9-3*

### NORTHWESTERN STATE
*Natchitoches, LA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @HOUSTON | |
| S.12 | @GRAMBLING STATE | 31-19 |
| S.19 | North Dakota | |
| S.26 | @BAYLOR | 6-51 |
| O.10 | Central Arkansas | 6-42 |
| O.17 | @McNEESE STATE | 17-24 |
| O.24 | Texas State | 34-31 (OT) |
| O.31 | @SAM HOUSTON STATE | 24-16 |
| N.7 | Southeastern Louisiana | 21-26 |
| N.14 | @NICHOLLS STATE | 36-28 |
| N.21 | Stephen F. Austin | 34-24 |

**Coach:** *Bradley Dale Peveto*
**Colors:** *Purple, White & Orange*
**Nickname:** *Demons* **2008 Record:** *7-5*

### NOTRE DAME
*Notre Dame, IN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Nevada | |
| S.12 | @MICHIGAN | 35-17 |
| S.19 | Michigan State | 7-23 |
| S.26 | @PURDUE | 38-21 |
| O.3 | Washington | 33-7 |
| O.17 | USC | 3-38 |
| O.24 | Boston College | 0-17 |
| O.31 | @WASHINGTON STATE* | |
| N.7 | Navy | 27-21 |
| N.14 | @PITTSBURGH | 33-36 (OT) |
| N.21 | Connecticut | |
| N.28 | @STANFORD | 28-21 |

** At San Antonio, TX*
**Coach:** *Charlie Weis* **Colors:** *Gold & Blue*
**Nickname:** *Fighting Irish* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

### OHIO
*Athens, OH*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Connecticut | |
| S.12 | @NORTH TEXAS | |
| S.19 | Cal Poly | |
| S.26 | @TENNESSEE | |
| O.3 | @BOWLING GREEN | 3-28 |
| O.10 | @AKRON | 49-42 |
| O.17 | Miami (OH) | 41-26 |
| O.24 | Kent State | 26-19 |
| O.31 | @BALL STATE | |
| N.10 | @BUFFALO | 19-32 |
| N.21 | Northern Illinois | |
| N.27 | Temple | 10-14 |

**Coach:** *Frank Solich* **Colors:** *Hunter Green & White*
**Nickname:** *Bobcats* **2008 Record:** *4-8*

### OHIO STATE
*Columbus, OH*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Navy | |
| S.12 | USC | 3-35 |
| S.19 | @TOLEDO* | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.26 | Illinois | 30-20 |
| 0.3 | @INDIANA | |
| 0.10 | Wisconsin | 20-17 |
| 0.17 | @PURDUE | 16-3 |
| 0.24 | Minnesota | 34-21 |
| 0.31 | New Mexico State | |
| N.7 | @PENN STATE | 6-13 |
| N.14 | Iowa | |
| N.21 | @MICHIGAN | 42-7 |

** At Cleveland, OH*
***Coach:*** *Jim Tressel* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Gray*
***Nickname:*** *Buckeyes* ***2008 Record:*** *10-2*

## OKLAHOMA
*Norman, OK*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Brigham Young* | |
| S.12 | Idaho State | |
| S.19 | Tulsa | |
| 0.3 | @MIAMI (FL) | |
| 0.10 | Baylor | 49-17 |
| 0.17 | @TEXAS# | 35-45 |
| 0.24 | @KANSAS | 45-31 |
| 0.31 | Kansas State | 58-35 |
| N.7 | @NEBRASKA | 62-28 |
| N.14 | Texas A&M | 66-28 |
| N.21 | @TEXAS TECH | 65-21 |
| N.28 | Oklahoma State | 61-41 |

** At Arlington, TX*
*# At Dallas, TX*
***Coach:*** *Bob Stoops* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & Cream*
***Nickname:*** *Sooners* ***2008 Record:*** *12-1*

## OKLAHOMA STATE
*Stillwater, OK*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Georgia | |
| S.12 | Houston | 56-37 |
| S.19 | Rice | |
| S.26 | Grambling State | |
| 0.10 | @TEXAS A&M | 56-28 |
| 0.17 | Missouri | 28-23 |
| 0.24 | @BAYLOR | 34-6 |
| 0.31 | Texas | 24-28 |
| N.7 | @IOWA STATE | 59-17 |
| N.14 | Texas Tech | 20-56 |
| N.19 | Colorado | 30-17 |
| N.28 | @OKLAHOMA | 41-61 |

***Coach:*** *Mike Gundy* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Cowboys* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

## OLD DOMINION
*Norfolk, VA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Chowan | |
| S.12 | Virginia Union | |
| S.19 | @JACKSONVILLE | |
| S.26 | Monmouth | |
| 0.3 | @FORDHAM | |
| 0.10 | Presbyterian | |
| 0.17 | Campbell | |
| 0.24 | @SAVANNAH STATE | |
| 0.31 | Georgetown | |
| N.7 | North Carolina Central | |
| N.21 | @VIRGINIA MILITARY | |

***Coach:*** *Bobby Wilder*
***Colors:*** *Slate Blue, Silver & Light Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Monarchs*

## OLE MISS
*Oxford, MS*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @MEMPHIS | 41-24 |
| S.19 | Southeastern Louisiana | |
| S.24 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | 24-31 |
| 0.3 | @VANDERBILT | 17-23 |
| 0.10 | Alabama | 20-24 |
| 0.17 | UAB | |
| 0.24 | Arkansas | 23-21 |
| 0.31 | @AUBURN | 17-7 |
| N.7 | Northern Arizona | |
| N.14 | Tennessee | |
| N.21 | LSU | 31-13 |
| N.28 | @MISSISSIPPI STATE | 45-0 |

***Coach:*** *Houston Nutt*
***Colors:*** *Cardinal Red & Navy Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Rebels* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

## OREGON
*Eugene, OR*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | @BOISE STATE | 32-37 |
| S.12 | Purdue | 32-26 (OT) |
| S.19 | Utah | |
| S.26 | California | 16-26 |
| 0.3 | Washington State | 63-14 |
| 0.10 | @UCLA | 31-24 |
| 0.24 | @WASHINGTON | 44-10 |
| 0.31 | USC | 10-44 |
| N.7 | @STANFORD | 35-28 |
| N.14 | Arizona State | 54-20 |
| N.21 | @ARIZONA | 55-45 |
| D.3 | Oregon State | 65-38 |

***Coach:*** *Chip Kelly*
***Colors:*** *Emerald Green & Lemon Yellow*
***Nickname:*** *Ducks* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

## OREGON STATE
*Corvallis, OR*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Portland State | |
| S.12 | @UNLV | |
| S.19 | Cincinnati | |
| S.26 | Arizona | 19-17 |
| 0.3 | @ARIZONA STATE | 27-25 |
| 0.10 | Stanford | 28-36 |
| 0.24 | @USC | 27-21 |
| 0.31 | UCLA | 34-6 |
| N.7 | @CALIFORNIA | 34-21 |
| N.14 | Washington | 34-13 |
| N.21 | @WASHINGTON STATE | 66-13 |
| D.3 | @OREGON | 38-65 |

***Coach:*** *Mike Riley* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Beavers* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

## PENN STATE
*University Park, PA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Akron | |
| S.12 | Syracuse | 55-13 |
| S.19 | Temple | 45-3 |
| S.26 | Iowa | 23-24 |
| 0.3 | @ILLINOIS | 38-24 |
| 0.10 | Eastern Illinois | |
| 0.17 | Minnesota | |
| 0.24 | @MICHIGAN | 46-17 |
| 0.31 | @NORTHWESTERN | |
| N.7 | Ohio State | 13-6 |
| N.14 | Indiana | 34-7 |
| N.21 | @MICHIGAN STATE | 49-18 |

***Coach:*** *Joe Paterno* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Nittany Lions* ***2008 Record:*** *11-1*

## PENNSYLVANIA
*Philadelphia, PA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.19 | Villanova | 14-20 (OT) |
| S.26 | @LAFAYETTE | 17-24 |
| 0.3 | @DARTMOUTH | 23-10 |
| 0.10 | Bucknell | |
| 0.17 | @COLUMBIA | 15-10 |
| 0.24 | Yale | 9-7 |
| 0.31 | @BROWN | 27-34 |
| N.7 | Princeton | 14-9 |
| N.14 | @HARVARD | 21-24 |
| N.21 | Cornell | 23-6 |

***Coach:*** *Al Bagnoli* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Quakers* ***2008 Record:*** *6-4*

## PITTSBURGH
*Pittsburgh, PA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Youngstown State | |
| S.12 | @BUFFALO | 27-16 |
| S.19 | Navy | 42-21 |
| S.26 | @NORTH CAROLINA STATE | |
| 0.2 | @LOUISVILLE | 41-7 |
| 0.10 | Connecticut | 34-10 |
| 0.16 | @RUTGERS | 34-54 |
| 0.24 | South Florida | 26-21 |
| N.7 | Syracuse | 34-24 |
| N.14 | Notre Dame | 36-33 (OT) |
| N.27 | @WEST VIRGINIA | 19-15 |
| D.5 | Cincinnati | 21-28 |

***Coach:*** *Dave Wannstedt* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Panthers* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

## PORTLAND STATE
*Portland, OR*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @OREGON STATE | |
| S.12 | Southern Oregon | |
| S.19 | @MONTANA | 12-29 |
| S.26 | Weber State | 21-31 |
| 0.3 | Sacramento State | 31-41 |
| 0.10 | @NORTHERN COLORADO | 24-21 |
| 0.17 | Northern Arizona | 17-37 |
| 0.24 | UC-Davis | 24-38 |
| 0.31 | @EASTERN WASHINGTON* | 47-36 |
| N.7 | Montana State | 32-49 |
| N.14 | @IDAHO STATE | 36-13 |

** At Seattle, WA*
***Coach:*** *Jerry Glanville* ***Colors:*** *Green, White & Silver*
***Nickname:*** *Vikings* ***2008 Record:*** *4-7*

## PRAIRIE VIEW A&M
*Prairie View, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @TEXAS SOUTHERN* | 34-14 |
| S.12 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | |
| 0.3 | Grambling State# | 16-40 |
| 0.10 | @ALABAMA STATE | 27-6 |
| 0.17 | Mississippi Valley State | 49-15 |
| 0.22 | @SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY | 24-23 |
| N.7 | Alabama A&M | 24-10 |
| N.14 | @ALCORN STATE | 37-3 |
| N.21 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 15-0 |

** At Houston, TX*
*# At Dallas, TX*
***Coach:*** *Henry Frazier* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Panthers* ***2008 Record:*** *9-1*

## PRESBYTERIAN
*Clinton, SC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @FURMAN | |
| S.12 | Elon | 12-66 |
| S.19 | Chattanooga | |
| S.26 | @CITADEL | |
| 0.3 | @STONY BROOK | |
| 0.10 | @OLD DOMINION | |
| 0.24 | Virginia Military | 27-49 |
| 0.31 | @LIBERTY | 31-28 |
| N.7 | Charleston Southern | 18-29 |
| N.14 | @COASTAL CAROLINA | 13-21 |
| N.21 | Gardner-Webb | 21-47 |

***Coach:*** *Harold Nichols* ***Colors:*** *Garnet & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Blue Hose* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

## PRINCETON
*Princeton, NJ*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.19 | Citadel | 24-37 |
| S.26 | @LEHIGH | 10-7 |
| 0.3 | Columbia | 27-24 |
| 0.8 | Colgate | 24-27 |
| 0.17 | @BROWN | 10-31 |
| 0.24 | @HARVARD | 20-24 |
| 0.31 | Cornell | 31-26 |
| N.7 | @PENNSYLVANIA | 9-14 |
| N.14 | Yale | 0-14 |
| N.21 | @DARTMOUTH | 28-10 |

***Coach:*** *Roger Hughes* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *4-6*

## PURDUE
*West Lafayette, IN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Toledo | |
| S.12 | @OREGON | 26-32 (OT) |
| S.19 | Northern Illinois | |
| S.26 | Notre Dame | 21-38 |
| 0.3 | Northwestern | 26-48 |
| 0.10 | @MINNESOTA | 6-17 |
| 0.17 | Ohio State | 3-16 |
| 0.24 | Illinois | |
| 0.31 | @WISCONSIN | |
| N.7 | @MICHIGAN | 48-42 |
| N.14 | Michigan State | 7-21 |
| N.21 | @INDIANA | 62-10 |

***Coach:*** *Danny Hope* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Boilermakers* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

## RHODE ISLAND
*Kingston, RI*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Fordham | 0-16 |
| S.19 | @MASSACHUSETTS | 0-49 |
| S.26 | @CONNECTICUT | |
| 0.3 | @BROWN | 37-13 |
| 0.10 | Towson | 32-37 |
| 0.17 | Hofstra | 20-23 |
| 0.24 | @VILLANOVA | 7-44 |
| 0.31 | William & Mary | 24-34 |
| N.7 | @NEW HAMPSHIRE | 43-51 |
| N.14 | @MAINE | 7-37 |
| N.21 | Northeastern | 29-14 |

***Coach:*** *Joe Trainer*
***Colors:*** *Keaney Blue, Dark Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Rams* ***2008 Record:*** *3-9*

## RICE
*Houston, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @UAB | |
| S.12 | @TEXAS TECH | |
| S.19 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | |
| S.26 | Vanderbilt | 21-38 |
| 0.3 | Tulsa | 28-63 |
| 0.10 | Navy | |
| 0.17 | @EAST CAROLINA | |
| 0.24 | UCF | |
| N.7 | @SOUTHERN METHODIST | 56-27 |
| N.14 | Tulane | 42-17 |
| N.21 | UTEP | 49-44 |
| N.28 | @HOUSTON | 56-42 |

***Coach:*** *David Bailiff* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gray*
***Nickname:*** *Owls* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

## RICHMOND
*Richmond, VA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @DUKE | |
| S.12 | @DELAWARE | 31-14 |
| S.19 | Hofstra | 34-14 |
| S.26 | Virginia Military | 56-16 |
| 0.10 | @JAMES MADISON | 31-38 |
| 0.17 | @MAINE | 44-17 |
| 0.24 | Massachusetts | 30-15 |
| 0.31 | @TOWSON | 45-14 |
| N.7 | Villanova | 20-26 |
| N.14 | @GEORGETOWN | 48-0 |
| N.21 | William & Mary | 23-20 (OT) |

***Coach:*** *Mike London* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Spiders* ***2008 Record:*** *13-3*

## ROBERT MORRIS
*Moon Township, PA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @VIRGINIA MILITARY | |
| S.12 | @BUCKNELL | 14-17 |
| S.19 | Dayton | 14-31 |
| S.26 | Bryant | 7-20 |
| 0.3 | @DUQUESNE | 34-27 |
| 0.10 | @CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE | 27-14 |
| 0.17 | St. Francis (PA) | 35-20 |
| 0.31 | Sacred Heart | 28-31 |
| N.7 | @ALBANY | 7-41 |
| N.14 | Wagner | 35-3 |
| N.21 | @MONMOUTH | 26-34 |

***Coach:*** *Joe Walton* ***Colors:*** *Blue, White & Red*
***Nickname:*** *Colonials* ***2008 Record:*** *5-6*

## RUTGERS
*Piscataway, NJ*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.7 | Cincinnati | 10-13 |
| S.12 | Howard | |
| S.19 | Florida International | |
| S.26 | @MARYLAND | |
| 0.3 | Texas Southern | |
| 0.16 | Pittsburgh | 54-34 |
| 0.23 | @ARMY | 30-3 |
| 0.31 | @CONNECTICUT | 12-10 |
| N.12 | South Florida | 49-16 |
| N.21 | @SYRACUSE | 35-17 |
| N.27 | @LOUISVILLE | 63-14 |
| D.5 | West Virginia | 17-24 |

***Coach:*** *Greg Schiano* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet*
***Nickname:*** *Scarlet Knights* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

## SACRAMENTO STATE
*Sacramento, CA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @UNLV | |
| S.12 | @CAL POLY | |
| S.26 | Eastern Washington | 15-13 |
| 0.3 | @PORTLAND STATE | 41-31 |
| 0.10 | Idaho State | 33-36 (OT) |
| 0.17 | @WEBER STATE | 27-32 |
| 0.24 | Montana | 7-43 |
| 0.31 | Northern Arizona | 10-42 |
| N.7 | @NORTHERN COLORADO | 45-25 |
| N.14 | @MONTANA STATE | 20-31 |
| N.21 | UC-Davis | 29-19 |

***Coach:*** *Marshall Sperbeck* ***Colors:*** *Green & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Hornets* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

## SACRED HEART
*Fairfield, CT*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Marist | 28-16 |
| S.12 | @HOLY CROSS | |
| S.26 | @ALBANY | 21-26 |
| 0.3 | @CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE | 14-49 |
| 0.10 | St. Francis (PA) | 41-24 |
| 0.17 | Monmouth | 7-19 |
| 0.24 | @WAGNER | 42-20 |
| 0.31 | @ROBERT MORRIS | 31-28 |
| N.7 | Bryant | |
| N.14 | Duquesne | 29-17 |

***Coach:*** *Paul Gorham* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
***Nickname:*** *Pioneers* ***2008 Record:*** *8-3*

## SAM HOUSTON STATE
*Huntsville, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | Western Illinois | |
| S.12 | North Dakota State | |
| S.26 | @TULSA | |
| 0.3 | St. Joseph's (IN) | |
| 0.10 | Nicholls State | 47-37 |
| 0.17 | @SOUTHEASTERN LA | 27-30 (OT) |
| 0.24 | @STEPHEN F. AUSTIN | 34-31 (OT) |
| 0.31 | Northwestern State | 16-24 |
| N.7 | @McNEESE STATE | 17-28 |
| N.14 | Central Arkansas | 46-48 |
| N.21 | @TEXAS STATE | 45-48 (OT) |

***Coach:*** *Todd Whitten* ***Colors:*** *Orange & White*
***Nickname:*** *Bearkats* ***2008 Record:*** *4-6*

## SAMFORD
*Birmingham, AL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @UCF | |
| S.12 | Jacksonville | |
| S.19 | Miles | |
| S.26 | @APPALACHIAN STATE | 24-35 |
| 0.3 | Western Carolina | 21-6 |
| 0.10 | Chattanooga | 30-7 |
| 0.17 | @FURMAN | 27-28 |
| 0.31 | @CITADEL | 28-10 |
| N.7 | Georgia Southern | 27-17 |
| N.14 | @WOFFORD | 7-28 |
| N.21 | Elon | 17-23 |

***Coach:*** *Pat Sullivan* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *6-5*

## SAN DIEGO
*San Diego, CA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @AZUSA PACIFIC | 38-10 |
| S.12 | @NORTHERN COLORADO | |
| S.19 | Marist | 40-22 |
| 0.3 | @BUTLER | 34-17 |
| 0.10 | @VALPARAISO | 42-14 |
| 0.17 | Drake | 43-17 |
| 0.24 | Jacksonville | 29-30 |
| 0.31 | @DAYTON | 22-30 |
| N.7 | Davidson | 28-24 |
| N.14 | @MOREHEAD STATE | 41-17 |
| N.21 | Southern Utah | |

***Coach:*** *Ron Caragher*
***Colors:*** *Navy, Columbia Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Toreros* ***2008 Record:*** *9-2*

## SAN DIEGO STATE
*San Diego, CA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @UCLA | |
| S.12 | Southern Utah | |
| S.19 | @IDAHO | 45-17 |
| S.26 | @AIR FORCE | 10-35 |
| 0.3 | New Mexico State | |
| 0.17 | Brigham Young | 12-41 |
| 0.24 | @COLORADO STATE | 34-38 |
| 0.31 | New Mexico | 7-70 |
| N.7 | TCU | 7-41 |
| N.14 | Wyoming | 10-35 |
| N.21 | @UTAH | 14-63 |
| N.28 | @UNLV | 42-21 |

***Coach:*** *Brady Hoke* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Aztecs* ***2008 Record:*** *2-10*

## SAN JOSE STATE
*San Jose, CA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @USC | |
| S.12 | Utah | |
| S.19 | @STANFORD | 10-23 |
| S.26 | Cal Poly | |
| 0.10 | Idaho | 30-24 |
| 0.17 | @FRESNO STATE | 10-24 |
| 0.31 | @BOISE STATE | 16-33 |
| N.8 | Nevada | 17-41 |
| N.14 | @UTAH STATE | 30-7 |
| N.21 | Hawaii | 20-17 |
| N.28 | New Mexico State | 31-14 |
| D.5 | @LOUISIANA TECH | 0-21 |

***Coach:*** *Dick Tomey* ***Colors:*** *Gold, Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Spartans* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

## SAVANNAH STATE
*Savannah, GA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @LIVINGSTONE* | 45-10 |
| S.12 | Alabama State | |
| S.19 | @McNEESE STATE | |
| S.26 | @CONCORDIA COLLEGE | 23-7 |
| 0.3 | @CHARLESTON SOUTHERN | 20-29 |
| 0.10 | North Greenville | |
| 0.17 | Bethune-Cookman | 9-34 |
| 0.24 | Old Dominion | |
| 0.31 | Edward Waters | 21-26 |
| N.14 | Webber International | 24-7 |
| N.21 | @NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL | 7-10 |

** At Greenville, SC*
***Coach:*** *Robby Wells* ***Colors:*** *Reflex Blue & Burnt Orange* ***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

## SOUTH CAROLINA
*Columbia, SC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | @NORTH CAROLINA STATE | 34-0 |
| S.12 | @GEORGIA | 7-14 |
| S.19 | Florida Atlantic | |
| S.24 | Ole Miss | 31-24 |
| 0.3 | South Carolina State | |
| 0.10 | Kentucky | 24-17 |
| 0.17 | @ALABAMA | |
| 0.24 | Vanderbilt | 17-24 |
| 0.31 | @TENNESSEE | 27-6 |
| N.7 | @ARKANSAS | 34-21 |
| N.14 | Florida | 6-56 |
| N.28 | Clemson | 14-31 |

***Coach:*** *Steve Spurrier* ***Colors:*** *Garnet & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Gamecocks* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

## SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
*Orangeburg, SC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.6 | @GRAMBLING STATE* | |
| S.12 | @BETHUNE-COOKMAN | 28-19 |
| S.26 | Winston-Salem State | 43-17 |
| 0.3 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | |
| 0.10 | @NORFOLK STATE | 24-23 |
| 0.17 | Florida A&M | 28-21 |
| 0.24 | @HAMPTON | 35-13 |
| 0.31 | Delaware State | 23-17 |
| N.7 | @HOWARD | 56-0 |
| N.14 | Morgan State | 32-0 |
| N.21 | North Carolina A&T | 55-0 |

** At Orlando, FL*
***Coach:*** *Buddy Pough* ***Colors:*** *Garnet & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *10-3*

## SOUTH DAKOTA
*Vermillion, SD*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | William Penn | |
| S.12 | @NORTHERN IOWA | 13-24 |
| S.19 | Drake | |
| S.26 | Southeastern Louisiana | 30-31 |
| 0.3 | @NORTH DAKOTA | 31-34 (OT) |
| 0.10 | UC-Davis | |
| 0.17 | @MONTANA STATE | 18-37 |
| 0.31 | @NORTHERN COLORADO | |
| N.7 | Southern Utah | 42-20 |
| N.14 | @CAL POLY | 22-49 |

***Coach:*** *Ed Meierkort* ***Colors:*** *Vermillion & White*
***Nickname:*** *Coyotes* ***2008 Record:*** *6-5*

### SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
*Brookings, SD*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.12 | Georgia Southern | |
| S.19 | Indiana State | 49-9 |
| S.26 | @ILLINOIS STATE | 52-21 |
| 0.3 | @CAL POLY | 28-42 |
| 0.10 | @MISSOURI STATE | 43-13 |
| 0.17 | North Dakota State | 25-24 |
| 0.24 | Northern Iowa | 20-34 |
| 0.31 | @YOUNGSTOWN STATE | 40-7 |
| N.7 | Southern Illinois | 35-38 |
| N.14 | @MINNESOTA | |
| N.21 | @WESTERN ILLINOIS | 24-22 |

**Coach:** *John Stiegelmeier* **Colors:** *Yellow & Blue*
**Nickname:** *Jackrabbits* **2008 Record:** *7-5*

### SOUTH FLORIDA
*Tampa, FL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Wofford | |
| S.12 | @WESTERN KENTUCKY | |
| S.19 | Charleston Southern | |
| S.26 | @FLORIDA STATE | |
| 0.3 | @SYRACUSE | 45-13 |
| 0.15 | Cincinnati | 10-24 |
| 0.24 | @PITTSBURGH | 21-26 |
| 0.30 | West Virginia | 7-13 |
| N.12 | @RUTGERS | 16-49 |
| N.21 | Louisville | 20-24 |
| N.28 | Miami (FL) | |
| D.5 | @CONNECTICUT | 17-13 |

**Coach:** *Jim Leavitt* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Bulls* **2008 Record:** *7-5*

### SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE
*Cape Girardeau, MO*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | Quincy | |
| S.12 | @CINCINNATI | |
| S.19 | Eastern Illinois | 21-24 |
| S.26 | @TENNESSEE-MARTIN | 21-31 |
| 0.3 | @TENNESSEE STATE | 27-20 (OT) |
| 0.10 | Austin Peay | 33-30 |
| 0.24 | @TENNESSEE TECH | 27-29 |
| 0.31 | @EASTERN KENTUCKY | 16-29 |
| N.7 | Jacksonville State | 17-38 |
| N.14 | Murray State | 10-17 |
| N.21 | Southern Illinois | |

**Coach:** *Tony Samuel* **Colors:** *Red, White & Black*
**Nickname:** *Redhawks* **2008 Record:** *4-8*

### SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
*Hammond, LA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Texas A&M-Commerce | |
| S.10 | Union College | |
| S.19 | @OLE MISS | |
| S.26 | @SOUTH DAKOTA | 31-30 |
| 0.10 | @TEXAS STATE | 24-38 |
| 0.17 | Sam Houston State | 30-27 (OT) |
| 0.24 | @McNEESE STATE | 14-24 |
| 0.31 | Central Arkansas | 21-28 |
| N.7 | @NORTHWESTERN STATE | 26-21 |
| N.14 | Stephen F. Austin | 45-48 |
| N.19 | Nicholls State | 28-35 |

**Coach:** *Mike Lucas* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Lions* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

### SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
*Carbondale, IL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @MARSHALL | |
| S.19 | Southwest Baptist | |
| S.26 | North Dakota State | 27-35 |
| 0.3 | @WESTERN ILLINOIS | 24-14 |
| 0.10 | Illinois State | 17-10 (OT) |
| 0.17 | @NORTHERN IOWA | 27-24 |
| 0.24 | Youngstown State | 33-0 |
| 0.31 | @INDIANA STATE | 60-7 |
| N.7 | @SOUTH DAKOTA STATE | 38-35 |
| N.14 | Missouri State | 23-17 |
| N.21 | @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE | |

**Coach:** *Dale Lennon* **Colors:** *Maroon & White*
**Nickname:** *Salukis* **2008 Record:** *9-3*

### SOUTHERN METHODIST
*Dallas, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Stephen F. Austin | |
| S.12 | @UAB | |
| S.19 | @WASHINGTON STATE | |
| 0.3 | @TCU | 7-48 |
| 0.10 | East Carolina | |
| 0.17 | Navy | 7-34 |
| 0.24 | @HOUSTON | 38-44 |
| 0.31 | @TULSA | 31-37 |
| N.7 | Rice | 27-56 |
| N.14 | UTEP | 10-36 |
| N.21 | @MARSHALL | |
| N.28 | Tulane | 27-34 |

**Coach:** *June Jones* **Colors:** *Red & Blue*
**Nickname:** *Mustangs* **2008 Record:** *1-11*

### SOUTHERN MISS
*Hattiesburg, MS*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Alcorn State | |
| S.12 | UCF | 17-6 |
| S.19 | Virginia | |
| S.26 | @KANSAS | |
| 0.1 | @UAB | 70-14 |
| 0.10 | @LOUISVILLE | |
| 0.17 | Memphis | 30-36 |
| 0.24 | Tulane | |
| 0.31 | @HOUSTON | |
| N.14 | @MARSHALL | 27-34 |
| N.21 | Tulsa | |
| N.28 | @EAST CAROLINA | 21-3 |

**Coach:** *Larry Fedora* **Colors:** *Black & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Golden Eagles* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

### SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
*Baton Rouge, LA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE | |
| S.12 | Central State | |
| S.19 | Tennessee State | 32-34 |
| S.26 | Alcorn State | 15-12 |
| 0.3 | Jackson State* | 35-28 |
| 0.10 | @TEXAS SOUTHERN | 45-14 |
| 0.17 | Fort Valley State | |
| 0.22 | Prairie View A&M | 23-24 |
| 0.31 | @ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF | 31-24 (OT) |
| N.14 | Alabama State# | 15-0 |
| N.28 | @GRAMBLING STATE$ | 14-29 |

** At Jackson, MS*
*# At Mobile, AL*
*$ At New Orleans, LA*
**Coach:** *Pete Richardson*
**Colors:** *Columbia Blue & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Jaguars* **2008 Record:** *6-5*

### SOUTHERN UTAH
*Cedar City, UT*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | Dixie State | |
| S.12 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | |
| S.19 | @NORTHERN ARIZONA | 14-19 |
| S.26 | @UTAH STATE | |
| 0.3 | Texas State | 34-20 |
| 0.17 | @CAL POLY | 41-69 |
| 0.24 | North Dakota | 15-14 |
| 0.31 | UC-Davis | 26-49 |
| N.7 | @SOUTH DAKOTA | 20-42 |
| N.14 | Eastern Washington | |
| N.21 | @SAN DIEGO | |

**Coach:** *Ed Lamb* **Colors:** *Scarlet & White*
**Nickname:** *Thunderbirds* **2008 Record:** *4-7*

### ST. FRANCIS (PA)
*Loretto, PA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @NEW HAMPSHIRE | |
| S.12 | Morehead State | 21-36 |
| S.19 | @NORTHERN IOWA | |
| S.26 | @WAGNER | 13-17 |
| 0.3 | Albany | 3-27 |
| 0.10 | @SACRED HEART | 24-41 |
| 0.17 | @ROBERT MORRIS | 20-35 |
| 0.24 | Duquesne | 7-21 |
| N.7 | Monmouth | 15-42 |
| N.14 | @BRYANT | 0-23 |
| N.21 | Central Connecticut State | 0-36 |

**Coach:** *Dave Opfar* **Colors:** *Red & White*
**Nickname:** *Red Flash* **2008 Record:** *0-11*

### STANFORD
*Stanford, CA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @WASHINGTON STATE | 58-0 |
| S.12 | @WAKE FOREST | |
| S.19 | San Jose State | 23-10 |
| S.26 | Washington | 35-28 |
| 0.3 | UCLA | 20-23 |
| 0.10 | @OREGON STATE | 36-28 |
| 0.17 | @ARIZONA | 24-23 |
| 0.24 | Arizona State | 17-41 |
| N.7 | Oregon | 28-35 |
| N.14 | @USC | 23-45 |
| N.21 | California | 16-37 |
| N.28 | Notre Dame | 21-28 |

**Coach:** *Jim Harbaugh* **Colors:** *Cardinal & White*
**Nickname:** *Cardinal* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

### STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
*Nacogdoches, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @SOUTHERN METHODIST | |
| S.12 | Texas College | |
| S.19 | @WESTERN ILLINOIS | 14-34 |
| S.26 | North Dakota | |
| 0.10 | McNeese State | 31-42 |
| 0.17 | @CENTRAL ARKANSAS | 41-49 |
| 0.24 | Sam Houston State | 31-34 (OT) |
| 0.31 | @TEXAS STATE | 21-62 |
| N.7 | Nicholls State | 50-39 |
| N.14 | @SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA | 48-45 |
| N.21 | @NORTHWESTERN STATE | 24-34 |

**Coach:** *J.C. Harper* **Colors:** *Purple & White*
**Nickname:** *Lumberjacks* **2008 Record:** *4-8*

### STONY BROOK
*Stony Brook, NY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @HOFSTRA | 3-43 |
| S.12 | @COLGATE | 42-26 |
| S.19 | Brown | 7-17 |
| S.26 | @MASSACHUSETTS | |
| 0.3 | Presbyterian | |
| 0.10 | @NORTH DAKOTA | |
| 0.17 | @VIRGINIA MILITARY | 40-26 |
| 0.24 | Coastal Carolina | 28-24 |
| 0.31 | @GARDNER-WEBB | 33-34 |
| N.14 | @CHARLESTON SOUTHERN | 20-19 |
| N.21 | Liberty | 0-33 |

**Coach:** *Chuck Priore* **Colors:** *Red, Blue & Gray*
**Nickname:** *Seawolves* **2008 Record:** *5-6*

### SYRACUSE
*Syracuse, NY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Minnesota | |
| S.12 | @PENN STATE | 13-55 |
| S.19 | Northwestern | 10-30 |
| S.26 | Maine | |
| 0.3 | South Florida | 13-45 |
| 0.10 | West Virginia | 6-17 |
| 0.24 | Akron | 28-42 |
| 0.31 | Cincinnati | 10-30 |
| N.7 | @PITTSBURGH | 24-34 |
| N.14 | @LOUISVILLE | 28-21 |
| N.21 | Rutgers | 17-35 |
| N.28 | @CONNECTICUT | 14-39 |

**Coach:** *Doug Marrone* **Colors:** *Orange*
**Nickname:** *Orange* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

### TCU
*Fort Worth, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.12 | @VIRGINIA | |
| S.19 | Texas State | |
| S.26 | @CLEMSON | |
| 0.3 | Southern Methodist | 48-7 |
| 0.10 | @AIR FORCE | 44-10 |
| 0.17 | Colorado State | 13-7 |
| 0.24 | @BRIGHAM YOUNG | 32-7 |
| 0.31 | UNLV | 44-14 |
| N.7 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | 41-7 |
| N.14 | Utah | 10-13 |
| N.21 | @WYOMING | 54-7 |
| N.28 | New Mexico | 26-3 |

**Coach:** *Gary Patterson* **Colors:** *Purple & White*
**Nickname:** *Horned Frogs* **2008 Record:** *10-2*

### TEMPLE
*Philadelphia, PA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | Villanova | |
| S.19 | @PENN STATE | 3-45 |
| S.26 | Buffalo | 28-30 |
| 0.3 | @EASTERN MICHIGAN | 55-52 |
| 0.10 | Ball State | |
| 0.17 | Army | 35-7 |
| 0.24 | @TOLEDO | |
| 0.31 | @NAVY | 27-33 (OT) |
| N.5 | Miami (OH) | 28-10 |
| N.13 | @AKRON | 27-6 |
| N.21 | Kent State | 38-41 |
| N.27 | @OHIO | 14-10 |

**Coach:** *Al Golden* **Colors:** *Cherry & White*
**Nickname:** *Owls* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

### TENNESSEE
*Knoxville, TN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Western Kentucky | |
| S.12 | UCLA | 24-27 (OT) |
| S.19 | @FLORIDA | 6-30 |
| S.26 | Ohio | |
| 0.3 | Auburn | 12-14 |
| 0.10 | Georgia | 14-26 |
| 0.24 | @ALABAMA | 9-29 |
| 0.31 | South Carolina | 6-27 |
| N.7 | Memphis | |
| N.14 | @OLE MISS | |
| N.21 | Vanderbilt | 20-10 |
| N.28 | @KENTUCKY | 28-10 |

**Coach:** *Lane Kiffin* **Colors:** *Orange & White*
**Nickname:** *Volunteers* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

### TENNESSEE STATE
*Nashville, TN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Alabama A&M | 34-13 |
| S.12 | @JACKSON STATE* | 41-18 |
| S.19 | @SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY | 34-32 |
| S.26 | Florida A&M# | 21-28 |
| 0.3 | Southeast Missouri State | 20-27 (OT) |
| 0.10 | @EASTERN KENTUCKY | 34-20 |
| 0.17 | Murray State | 17-24 |
| 0.31 | @TENNESSEE TECH | 41-14 |
| N.7 | Tennessee Martin | 30-27 (OT) |
| N.14 | @AUSTIN PEAY | 37-34 |
| N.21 | @EASTERN ILLINOIS | 45-24 |

** At Memphis, TN*
*# At Atlanta, GA*
**Coach:** *James Webster* **Colors:** *Royal Blue, White*
**Nickname:** *Tigers* **2008 Record:** *8-4*

### TENNESSEE TECH
*Cookeville, TN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.10 | Pikeville College | |
| S.19 | @EASTERN KENTUCKY | 12-33 |
| S.26 | @KANSAS STATE | |
| 0.3 | Austin Peay | 28-31 |
| 0.10 | @TENNESSEE-MARTIN | 7-35 |
| 0.17 | @EASTERN ILLINOIS | 20-38 |
| 0.24 | Southeast Missouri State | 29-27 |
| 0.31 | Tennessee State | 14-41 |
| N.7 | @GEORGIA | |
| N.14 | @JACKSONVILLE STATE | 17-41 |
| N.21 | Murray State | 21-51 |

**Coach:** *Watson Brown* **Colors:** *Purple & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Golden Eagles* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

### TENNESSEE-MARTIN
*Martin, TN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | Iowa Wesleyan | |
| S.12 | @MISSOURI STATE | |
| S.19 | @MEMPHIS | |
| S.26 | Southeast Missouri State | 31-21 |
| 0.3 | @JACKSONVILLE STATE | 31-30 |
| 0.10 | Tennessee Tech | 35-7 |
| 0.17 | @EASTERN KENTUCKY | 31-33 |
| 0.24 | Murray State | 63-38 |
| N.7 | @TENNESSEE STATE | 27-30 (OT) |
| N.14 | @EASTERN ILLINOIS | 29-26 |
| N.21 | Austin Peay | 31-17 |

**Coach:** *Jason Simpson* **Colors:** *Navy Blue & Orange*
**Nickname:** *Skyhawks* **2008 Record:** *8-4*

### TEXAS
*Austin, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Louisiana-Monroe | |
| S.12 | @WYOMING | |
| S.19 | Texas Tech | 33-39 |
| S.26 | UTEP | 42-13 |
| 0.10 | Colorado | 38-14 |
| 0.17 | Oklahoma* | 45-35 |
| 0.24 | @MISSOURI | 56-31 |
| 0.31 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | 28-24 |
| N.7 | UCF | |
| N.14 | @BAYLOR | 45-21 |
| N.21 | Kansas | 35-7 |
| N.26 | @TEXAS A&M | 49-9 |

** At Dallas, TX*
**Coach:** *Mack Brown*
**Colors:** *White & Burnt Orange*
**Nickname:** *Longhorns* **2008 Record:** *11-1*

### TEXAS A&M
*College Station, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | New Mexico | 28-22 |
| S.19 | Utah State | |
| S.26 | UAB | |
| 0.3 | Arkansas* | |
| 0.10 | Oklahoma State | 28-56 |
| 0.17 | @KANSAS STATE | 30-44 |
| 0.24 | @TEXAS TECH | 25-43 |
| 0.31 | Iowa State | 49-35 |
| N.7 | @COLORADO | 24-17 |
| N.14 | @OKLAHOMA | 28-66 |
| N.21 | Baylor | 21-41 |
| N.26 | Texas | 9-49 |

** At Arlington, TX*
**Coach:** *Mike Sherman* **Colors:** *Maroon & White*
**Nickname:** *Aggies* **2008 Record:** *4-8*

### TEXAS SOUTHERN
*Houston, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Prairie View A&M* | 14-34 |
| S.12 | @LOUISIANA-MONROE | |
| S.26 | @TEXAS STATE | 39-63 |
| 0.3 | @RUTGERS | |
| 0.10 | Southern University | 14-45 |
| 0.17 | @JACKSON STATE | 14-30 |
| 0.31 | Alcorn State | 30-29 |
| N.7 | @MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE | 44-58 |
| N.12 | @GRAMBLING STATE | 7-33 |
| N.28 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 7-28 |

** At Houston, TX*
**Coach:** *Johnnie Cole* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gray*
**Nickname:** *Tigers* **2008 Record:** *4-8*

### TEXAS STATE
*San Marcos, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Angelo State | 21-14 |
| S.19 | @TCU | |
| S.26 | Texas Southern | 63-39 |
| 0.3 | @SOUTHERN UTAH | 20-34 |
| 0.10 | Southeastern Louisiana | 38-24 |
| 0.17 | @NICHOLLS STATE | 34-10 |
| 0.24 | @NORTHWESTERN STATE | 31-34 (OT) |
| 0.31 | Stephen F. Austin | 62-21 |
| N.7 | @CENTRAL ARKANSAS | 24-31 |
| N.14 | McNeese State | 45-42 |
| N.21 | Sam Houston State | 48-45 (OT) |

**Coach:** *Brad Wright* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Bobcats* **2008 Record:** *8-5*

### TEXAS TECH
*Lubbock, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | North Dakota | |
| S.12 | Rice | |
| S.19 | @TEXAS | 39-33 |
| S.26 | @HOUSTON | |
| 0.3 | New Mexico | |
| 0.10 | Kansas State | 58-28 |
| 0.17 | @NEBRASKA | 37-31 (OT) |
| 0.24 | Texas A&M | 43-25 |
| 0.31 | Kansas | 63-21 |
| N.14 | @OKLAHOMA STATE | 56-20 |
| N.21 | Oklahoma | 21-65 |
| N.28 | @BAYLOR* | 35-28 |

** At Arlington, TX*
**Coach:** *Mike Leach* **Colors:** *Scarlet & Black*
**Nickname:** *Red Raiders* **2008 Record:** *11-1*

### TOLEDO
*Toledo, OH*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @PURDUE | |
| S.11 | Colorado | |
| S.19 | Ohio State* | |
| S.26 | @FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL | 16-35 |
| 0.3 | @BALL STATE | 0-31 |
| 0.10 | Western Michigan | 17-27 |
| 0.17 | Northern Illinois | 7-38 |
| 0.24 | Temple | |
| 0.31 | @MIAMI (OH) | 42-14 |
| N.11 | @CENTRAL MICHIGAN | 23-24 |
| N.20 | Eastern Michigan | 41-17 |
| N.27 | @BOWLING GREEN | 10-38 |

** At Cleveland, OH*
**Coach:** *Tim Beckman*
**Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
**Nickname:** *Rockets* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

### TOWSON
*Towson, MD*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @NORTHWESTERN | |
| S.19 | Coastal Carolina | 3-31 |
| S.26 | @MORGAN STATE | 21-16 |
| 0.3 | New Hampshire | 14-42 |
| 0.10 | @RHODE ISLAND | 37-32 |
| 0.17 | Delaware | 21-31 |
| 0.24 | @NORTHEASTERN | 17-35 |
| 0.31 | Richmond | 14-45 |
| N.7 | @WILLIAM & MARY | 14-34 |
| N.14 | Villanova | 31-34 |
| N.21 | @JAMES MADISON | 27-58 |

**Coach:** *Rob Ambrose* **Colors:** *White, Gold & Black*
**Nickname:** *Tigers* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

### TROY
*Troy, AL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | @BOWLING GREEN | |
| S.12 | @FLORIDA | |
| S.19 | UAB | |
| S.26 | @ARKANSAS STATE | 35-9 |
| 0.6 | Middle Tennessee | 31-17 |
| 0.17 | @FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL | 33-23 |
| 0.24 | North Texas | 45-17 |
| 0.31 | Louisiana-Monroe | 30-31 |
| N.7 | @WESTERN KENTUCKY | 17-7 |
| N.14 | @ARKANSAS | |
| N.21 | Florida Atlantic | 30-17 |
| N.28 | @LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE | 48-3 |

**Coach:** *Larry Blakeney*
**Colors:** *Cardinal, Silver & Black*
**Nickname:** *Trojans* **2008 Record:** *8-4*

### TULANE
*New Orleans, LA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.4 | Tulsa | 7-56 |
| S.12 | Brigham Young | |
| S.26 | McNeese State | |
| 0.3 | @ARMY | 13-44 |
| 0.10 | Marshall | |
| 0.17 | Houston | 14-42 |
| 0.24 | @SOUTHERN MISS | |
| 0.31 | @LSU | 10-35 |
| N.7 | UTEP | 21-24 |
| N.14 | @RICE | 17-42 |
| N.21 | @UCF | |
| N.28 | @SOUTHERN METHODIST | 34-27 |

**Coach:** *Bob Toledo* **Colors:** *Olive Green & Sky Blue*
**Nickname:** *Green Wave* **2008 Record:** *2-10*

### TULSA
*Tulsa, OK*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.4 | @TULANE | 56-7 |
| S.12 | @NEW MEXICO | 56-14 |
| S.19 | @OKLAHOMA | |
| S.26 | Sam Houston State | |
| 0.3 | @RICE | 63-28 |
| 0.14 | Boise State | |
| 0.21 | @UTEP | 77-35 |
| 0.31 | Southern Methodist | 37-31 |
| N.7 | Houston | 30-70 |
| N.15 | East Carolina | 24-27 |
| N.21 | @SOUTHERN MISS | |
| N.28 | Memphis | |

**Coach:** *Todd Graham*
**Colors:** *Crimson, Royal Blue & Old Gold*
**Nickname:** *Golden Hurricane*
**2008 Record:** *10-3*

### UAB
*Birmingham, AL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Rice | |
| S.12 | Southern Methodist | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.19 | @TROY | |
| S.26 | @TEXAS A&M | |
| O.1 | Southern Miss | 14-70 |
| O.17 | @OLE MISS | |
| O.24 | @MARSHALL | 23-21 |
| O.31 | @UTEP | |
| N.7 | Florida Atlantic | 34-49 |
| N.14 | @MEMPHIS | 30-33 |
| N.21 | @EAST CAROLINA | 13-17 |
| N.28 | UCF | 15-0 |

***Coach:*** *Neil Callaway*
***Colors:*** *Forest Green & Old Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Blazers* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

### UCF
*Orlando, FL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Samford | |
| S.12 | @SOUTHERN MISS | 6-17 |
| S.19 | Buffalo | |
| S.26 | @EAST CAROLINA | 10-13 (OT) |
| O.3 | Memphis | 28-21 |
| O.17 | Miami (FL) | 14-20 |
| O.24 | @RICE | |
| N.1 | Marshall | 30-14 |
| N.7 | @TEXAS | |
| N.14 | Houston | |
| N.21 | Tulane | |
| N.28 | @UAB | 0-15 |

***Coach:*** *George O'Leary* ***Colors:*** *Gold & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Knights* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

### UCLA
*Los Angeles, CA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | San Diego State | |
| S.12 | @TENNESSEE | 27-24 (OT) |
| S.19 | Kansas State | |
| O.3 | @STANFORD | 23-20 |
| O.10 | Oregon | 24-31 |
| O.17 | California | 20-41 |
| O.24 | @ARIZONA | 10-31 |
| O.31 | @OREGON STATE | 6-34 |
| N.7 | Washington | 27-7 |
| N.14 | @WASHINGTON STATE | 28-3 |
| N.21 | Arizona State | 9-34 |
| N.28 | @USC | 7-28 |

***Coach:*** *Rick Neuheisel* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Bruins* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

### UNLV
*Las Vegas, NV*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Sacramento State | |
| S.12 | Oregon State | |
| S.19 | Hawaii | |
| S.26 | @WYOMING | 22-14 |
| O.3 | @NEVADA | 27-49 |
| O.10 | Brigham Young | 35-42 |
| O.17 | Utah | 21-42 |
| O.24 | @NEW MEXICO | 27-20 |
| O.31 | @TCU | 14-44 |
| N.7 | Colorado State | 28-41 |
| N.14 | @AIR FORCE | 28-29 |
| N.28 | San Diego State | 21-42 |

***Coach:*** *Mike Sanford* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Gray*
***Nickname:*** *Rebels* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

### USC
*Los Angeles, CA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | San Jose State | |
| S.12 | @OHIO STATE | 35-3 |
| S.19 | @WASHINGTON | 56-0 |
| S.26 | Washington State | 69-0 |
| O.3 | @CALIFORNIA | 17-3 |
| O.17 | @NOTRE DAME | 38-3 |
| O.24 | Oregon State | 21-27 |
| O.31 | @OREGON | 44-10 |
| N.7 | @ARIZONA STATE | 28-0 |
| N.14 | Stanford | 45-23 |
| N.28 | UCLA | 28-7 |
| D.5 | Arizona | 17-10 |

***Coach:*** *Pete Carroll* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Trojans* ***2008 Record:*** *11-1*

### UTAH
*Salt Lake City, UT*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | Utah State | 58-10 |
| S.12 | @SAN JOSE STATE | |
| S.19 | @OREGON | |
| S.26 | Louisville | |
| O.10 | @COLORADO STATE | 49-16 |
| O.17 | @UNLV | 42-21 |
| O.24 | Air Force | 30-23 |
| O.31 | Wyoming | 40-7 |
| N.7 | New Mexico | 13-10 |
| N.14 | @TCU | 13-10 |
| N.21 | San Diego State | 63-14 |
| N.28 | @BRIGHAM YOUNG | 48-24 |

***Coach:*** *Kyle Whittingham*
***Colors:*** *Crimson & White*
***Nickname:*** *Utes* ***2008 Record:*** *12-0*

### UTAH STATE
*Logan, UT*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | @UTAH | 10-58 |
| S.19 | @TEXAS A&M | |
| S.26 | Southern Utah | |
| O.2 | @BRIGHAM YOUNG | 14-34 |
| O.10 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | 47-2 |
| O.17 | Nevada | 17-44 |
| O.24 | Louisiana Tech | 38-45 |
| O.31 | @FRESNO STATE | 28-30 |
| N.7 | @HAWAII | 30-14 |
| N.14 | San Jose State | 7-30 |
| N.20 | Boise State | 14-49 |
| N.28 | @IDAHO | 42-17 |

***Coach:*** *Gary Andersen* ***Colors:*** *Navy Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Aggies* ***2008 Record:*** *3-9*

### UTEP
*El Paso, TX*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Buffalo | 17-42 |
| S.12 | Kansas | |
| S.19 | @NEW MEXICO STATE | 33-34 |
| S.26 | @TEXAS | 13-42 |
| O.3 | Houston | 37-42 |
| O.10 | @MEMPHIS | |
| O.21 | Tulsa | 35-77 |
| O.31 | UAB | |
| N.7 | @TULANE | 24-21 |
| N.14 | @SOUTHERN METHODIST | 36-10 |
| N.21 | @RICE | 44-49 |
| N.28 | Marshall | |

***Coach:*** *Mike Price*
***Colors:*** *Dark Blue, Orange & Silver*
***Nickname:*** *Miners* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

### VALPARAISO
*Valparaiso, IN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | St. Joseph's (IN) | |
| S.12 | @CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY (WI) | 34-10 |
| S.26 | Carthage | |
| O.3 | @DRAKE | 0-32 |
| O.10 | San Diego | 14-42 |
| O.17 | @BUTLER | 21-48 |
| O.24 | Dayton | 7-43 |
| O.31 | @MARIST | |
| N.7 | @JACKSONVILLE | 24-40 |
| N.14 | Campbell | 47-14 |
| N.21 | Morehead State | 10-44 |

***Coach:*** *Stacy Adams* ***Colors:*** *Brown & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Crusaders* ***2008 Record:*** *3-8*

### VANDERBILT
*Nashville, TN*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Western Carolina | |
| S.12 | @LSU | |
| S.19 | Mississippi State | 14-17 |
| S.26 | @RICE | 38-21 |
| O.3 | Ole Miss | 23-17 |
| O.10 | @ARMY | |
| O.17 | Georgia | 14-24 |
| O.24 | @SOUTH CAROLINA | 24-17 |
| O.31 | Georgia Tech | |
| N.7 | @FLORIDA | 14-42 |
| N.14 | Kentucky | 31-24 |
| N.21 | @TENNESSEE | 10-20 |

***Coach:*** *Bobby Johnson* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Commodores* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

### VILLANOVA
*Villanova, PA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | @TEMPLE | |
| S.12 | Lehigh | 33-14 |
| S.19 | @PENNSYLVANIA | 20-14 (OT) |
| S.26 | Northeastern | 20-14 |
| O.3 | William & Mary | 38-28 |
| O.10 | @NEW HAMPSHIRE | 24-13 |
| O.17 | @JAMES MADISON | 27-31 |
| O.24 | Rhode Island | 44-7 |
| N.7 | @RICHMOND | 26-20 |
| N.14 | @TOWSON | 34-31 |
| N.21 | Delaware | 21-7 |

***Coach:*** *Andy Talley* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Wildcats* ***2008 Record:*** *10-3*

### VIRGINIA
*Charlottesville, VA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | William & Mary | |
| S.12 | TCU | |
| S.19 | @SOUTHERN MISS | |
| O.3 | @NORTH CAROLINA | 16-13 (OT) |
| O.10 | Indiana | |
| O.17 | @MARYLAND | 31-0 |
| O.24 | Georgia Tech | 24-17 |
| O.31 | Duke | 3-31 |
| N.7 | @MIAMI (FL) | 17-24 (OT) |
| N.14 | Boston College | |
| N.21 | @CLEMSON | 3-13 |
| N.28 | Virginia Tech | 14-17 |

***Coach:*** *Al Groh* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Cavaliers* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

### VIRGINIA MILITARY
*Lexington, VA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Robert Morris | |
| S.19 | @JAMES MADISON | |
| S.26 | @RICHMOND | 16-56 |
| O.3 | Gardner-Webb | 27-34 |
| O.10 | @COASTAL CAROLINA | 47-20 |
| O.17 | Stony Brook | 26-40 |
| O.24 | @PRESBYTERIAN | 49-27 |
| O.31 | Charleston Southern | 21-31 |
| N.7 | @LIBERTY | 26-38 |
| N.14 | @ARMY | |
| N.21 | Old Dominion | |

***Coach:*** *Sparky Woods*
***Colors:*** *Red, White & Yellow*
***Nickname:*** *Keydets* ***2008 Record:*** *4-7*

### VIRGINIA TECH
*Blacksburg, VA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Alabama* | |
| S.12 | Marshall | |
| S.19 | Nebraska | 35-30 |
| S.26 | Miami (FL) | 14-16 |
| O.3 | @DUKE | 14-3 |
| O.10 | Boston College | 30-12 |
| O.17 | @GEORGIA TECH | 20-17 |
| O.29 | North Carolina | 20-17 |
| N.5 | @EAST CAROLINA | 22-27 |
| N.14 | @MARYLAND | 23-13 |
| N.21 | North Carolina State | |
| N.28 | @VIRGINIA | 17-14 |

** At Atlanta, GA*

***Coach:*** *Frank Beamer*
***Colors:*** *Burnt Orange & Chicago Maroon*
***Nickname:*** *Hokies* ***2008 Record:*** *9-4*

### WAGNER
*Staten Island, NY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Stonehill | 13-14 |
| S.10 | SUNY Maritime | |
| S.19 | @NORTH DAKOTA STATE | |
| S.26 | St. Francis (PA) | 17-13 |
| O.3 | @BRYANT | 14-24 |
| O.10 | @MONMOUTH | 17-31 |
| O.24 | Sacred Heart | 20-42 |
| O.31 | @DUQUESNE | 0-14 |
| N.7 | Central Connecticut State | 10-35 |
| N.14 | @ROBERT MORRIS | 3-35 |
| N.21 | Albany | 11-30 |

***Coach:*** *Walt Hameline* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
***Nickname:*** *Seahawks* ***2008 Record:*** *3-8*

### WAKE FOREST
*Winston-Salem, NC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Baylor | 41-13 |
| S.12 | Stanford | |
| S.19 | Elon | |
| S.26 | @BOSTON COLLEGE | 21-24 |
| O.3 | North Carolina State | 17-21 |
| O.10 | Maryland | 0-26 |
| O.17 | @CLEMSON | 12-7 |
| O.24 | @NAVY | 17-24 |
| O.31 | Miami (FL) | 10-16 |
| N.7 | @GEORGIA TECH | |
| N.14 | Florida State | 12-3 |
| N.28 | @DUKE | 33-30 (OT) |

***Coach:*** *Jim Grobe* ***Colors:*** *Black & Old Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Demon Deacons* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

### WASHINGTON
*Seattle, WA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | LSU | |
| S.12 | Idaho | |
| S.19 | USC | 0-56 |
| S.26 | @STANFORD | 28-35 |
| O.3 | @NOTRE DAME | 7-33 |
| O.10 | Arizona | 14-48 |
| O.17 | @ARIZONA STATE | 19-39 |
| O.24 | Oregon | 10-44 |
| N.7 | @UCLA | 7-27 |
| N.14 | @OREGON STATE | 13-34 |
| N.28 | Washington State | 13-16 (OT) |
| D.5 | California | 7-48 |

***Coach:*** *Steve Sarkisian* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Huskies* ***2008 Record:*** *0-12*

### WASHINGTON STATE
*Pullman, WA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Stanford | 0-58 |
| S.12 | Hawaii* | 10-24 |
| S.19 | Southern Methodist | |
| S.26 | @USC | 0-69 |
| O.3 | @OREGON | 14-63 |
| O.10 | Arizona State | 0-31 |
| O.24 | @CALIFORNIA | 3-66 |
| O.31 | Notre Dame# | |
| N.7 | @ARIZONA | 28-59 |
| N.14 | UCLA | 3-28 |
| N.21 | Oregon State | 13-66 |
| N.28 | @WASHINGTON | 16-13 (OT) |

** At Seattle, WA*
*# At San Antonio, TX*

***Coach:*** *Paul Wulff* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & Gray*
***Nickname:*** *Cougars* ***2008 Record:*** *2-11*

### WEBER STATE
*Ogden, UT*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @WYOMING | |
| S.12 | @COLORADO STATE | |
| S.19 | Idaho State | 59-27 |
| S.26 | @PORTLAND STATE | 31-21 |
| O.3 | Montana State | 35-12 |
| O.10 | @EASTERN WASHINGTON | 26-33 |
| O.17 | Sacramento State | 32-27 |
| O.24 | @NORTHERN COLORADO | 17-10 |
| O.31 | @MONTANA | 13-24 |
| N.14 | Northern Arizona | 42-14 |
| N.21 | Cal Poly | 49-35 |

***Coach:*** *Ron McBride*
***Colors:*** *Royal Purple & White*
***Nickname:*** *Wildcats* ***2008 Record:*** *10-4*

### WEST VIRGINIA
*Morgantown, WV*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Liberty | |
| S.12 | East Carolina | 3-24 |
| S.19 | @AUBURN | 34-17 |
| O.1 | Colorado | 14-17 (OT) |
| O.10 | @SYRACUSE | 17-6 |
| O.17 | Marshall | 27-3 |
| O.24 | Connecticut | 35-13 |
| O.30 | @SOUTH FLORIDA | 13-7 |
| N.7 | Louisville | 35-21 |
| N.13 | @CINCINNATI | 23-26 (OT) |
| N.27 | Pittsburgh | 15-19 |
| D.5 | @RUTGERS | 24-17 |

***Coach:*** *Bill Stewart* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Blue*
***Nickname:*** *Mountaineers* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

### WESTERN CAROLINA
*Cullowhee, NC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @VANDERBILT | |
| S.12 | Gardner-Webb | |
| S.19 | @GEORGIA SOUTHERN | 31-38 (OT) |
| S.26 | Furman | 21-28 |
| O.3 | @SAMFORD | 6-21 |
| O.17 | Citadel | 14-34 |
| O.24 | Wofford | 14-42 |
| O.31 | @CHATTANOOGA | 27-7 |
| N.7 | Elon | 14-33 |
| N.14 | @EASTERN KENTUCKY | |
| N.21 | @APPALACHIAN STATE | 10-35 |

***Coach:*** *Dennis Wagner* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Catamounts* ***2008 Record:*** *3-9*

### WESTERN ILLINOIS
*Macomb, IL*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.3 | @SAM HOUSTON STATE | |
| S.12 | @NORTHERN ILLINOIS | |
| S.19 | Stephen F. Austin | 34-14 |
| O.3 | Southern Illinois | 14-24 |
| O.10 | @YOUNGSTOWN STATE | 28-31 |
| O.17 | Missouri State | 33-21 |
| O.24 | @INDIANA STATE | 56-0 |
| O.31 | North Dakota State | 27-22 |
| N.7 | @ILLINOIS STATE | 48-45 (OT) |
| N.14 | @NORTHERN IOWA | 6-30 |
| N.21 | South Dakota State | 22-24 |

***Coach:*** *Don Patterson* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Leathernecks* ***2008 Record:*** *6-5*

### WESTERN KENTUCKY
*Bowling Green, KY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @TENNESSEE | |
| S.12 | South Florida | |
| S.19 | Central Arkansas | |
| S.26 | @NAVY | |
| O.10 | Florida International | 3-27 |
| O.17 | Louisiana-Lafayette | |
| O.24 | @MIDDLE TENNESSEE | 10-21 |
| O.31 | @NORTH TEXAS | 40-51 |
| N.7 | Troy | 7-17 |
| N.14 | @LOUISIANA-MONROE | |
| N.28 | @FLORIDA ATLANTIC | 20-24 |
| D.3 | Arkansas State | |

***Coach:*** *David Elson* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
***Nickname:*** *Hilltoppers* ***2008 Record:*** *2-10*

### WESTERN MICHIGAN
*Kalamazoo, MI*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @MICHIGAN | |
| S.12 | @INDIANA | |
| S.19 | Miami (OH) | |
| S.26 | Hofstra | |
| O.3 | @NORTHERN ILLINOIS | 29-26 |
| O.10 | @TOLEDO | 27-17 |
| O.17 | Central Michigan | 28-38 |
| O.24 | Buffalo | 34-28 (OT) |
| O.31 | @KENT STATE | |
| N.7 | @MICHIGAN STATE | |
| N.14 | @EASTERN MICHIGAN | 31-10 |
| N.24 | Ball State | 22-45 |

***Coach:*** *Bill Cubit* ***Colors:*** *Brown & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Broncos* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

### WILLIAM & MARY
*Williamsburg, VA*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @VIRGINIA | |
| S.12 | Central Connecticut State | |
| S.19 | @NORFOLK STATE | 42-12 |
| S.26 | Delaware | 27-3 |
| O.3 | @VILLANOVA | 28-38 |
| O.10 | @NORTHEASTERN | 38-17 |
| O.24 | James Madison | 24-48 |
| O.31 | @RHODE ISLAND | 34-24 |
| N.7 | Towson | 34-14 |
| N.14 | New Hampshire | 38-34 |
| N.21 | @RICHMOND | 20-23 (OT) |

***Coach:*** *Jimmye Laycock* ***Colors:*** *Green, Gold & Silver*
***Nickname:*** *Tribe* ***2008 Record:*** *7-4*

### WINSTON-SALEM STATE
*Winston-Salem, NC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | North Carolina A&T | 8-14 |
| S.12 | Florida A&M | 0-23 |
| S.19 | @MORGAN STATE* | 7-21 |
| S.26 | @SOUTH CAROLINA STATE | 17-43 |
| O.3 | @HOWARD | 34-10 |
| O.17 | @UC-DAVIS | |
| O.24 | @BETHUNE-COOKMAN | 6-27 |
| O.31 | Hampton | 35-30 |
| N.7 | Delaware State | 27-26 |
| N.14 | North Carolina Central | 16-23 |
| N.21 | @NORFOLK STATE | 14-17 |

** At East Rutherford, NY*

***Coach:*** *Kermit Blount* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
***Nickname:*** *Rams* ***2008 Record:*** *3-8*

### WISCONSIN
*Madison, WI*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Northern Illinois | |
| S.12 | Fresno State | 13-10 |
| S.19 | Wofford | |
| S.26 | Michigan State | 24-25 |
| O.3 | @MINNESOTA | 35-32 |
| O.10 | @OHIO STATE | 17-20 |
| O.17 | Iowa | 16-38 |
| O.31 | Purdue | |
| N.7 | @INDIANA | 55-20 |
| N.14 | Michigan | 25-27 |
| N.21 | @NORTHWESTERN | |
| D.5 | @HAWAII | |

***Coach:*** *Bret Bielema* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & White*
***Nickname:*** *Badgers* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

### WOFFORD
*Spartanburg, SC*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @SOUTH FLORIDA | |
| S.12 | Charleston Southern | 41-23 |
| S.19 | @WISCONSIN | |
| S.26 | @CHATTANOOGA | 56-7 |
| O.3 | Georgia Southern | 38-37 (OT) |
| O.17 | Appalachian State | 24-70 |
| O.24 | @WESTERN CAROLINA | 42-14 |
| O.31 | Elon | 55-20 |
| N.7 | @CITADEL | 33-28 |
| N.14 | Samford | 28-7 |
| N.21 | @FURMAN | 35-10 |

***Coach:*** *Mike Ayers* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black*
***Nickname:*** *Terriers* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

### WYOMING
*Laramie, WY*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | Weber State | |
| S.12 | Texas | |
| S.19 | @COLORADO | |
| S.26 | UNLV | 14-22 |
| O.3 | @FLORIDA ATLANTIC | |
| O.10 | New Mexico | 0-24 |
| O.17 | @AIR FORCE | 3-23 |
| O.31 | @UTAH | 7-40 |
| N.7 | Brigham Young | 0-44 |
| N.14 | @SAN DIEGO STATE | 35-10 |
| N.21 | TCU | 7-54 |
| N.27 | @COLORADO STATE | 20-31 |

***Coach:*** *Dave Christensen* ***Colors:*** *Brown & Gold*
***Nickname:*** *Cowboys* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

### YALE
*New Haven, CT*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.19 | @GEORGETOWN | 47-7 |
| S.26 | Cornell | 14-17 |
| O.3 | Lafayette | |
| O.10 | Dartmouth | 34-7 |
| O.17 | @LEHIGH | |
| O.24 | @PENNSYLVANIA | 7-9 |
| O.31 | @COLUMBIA | 27-12 |
| N.7 | Brown | 13-3 |
| N.14 | @PRINCETON | 14-0 |
| N.21 | Harvard | 0-10 |

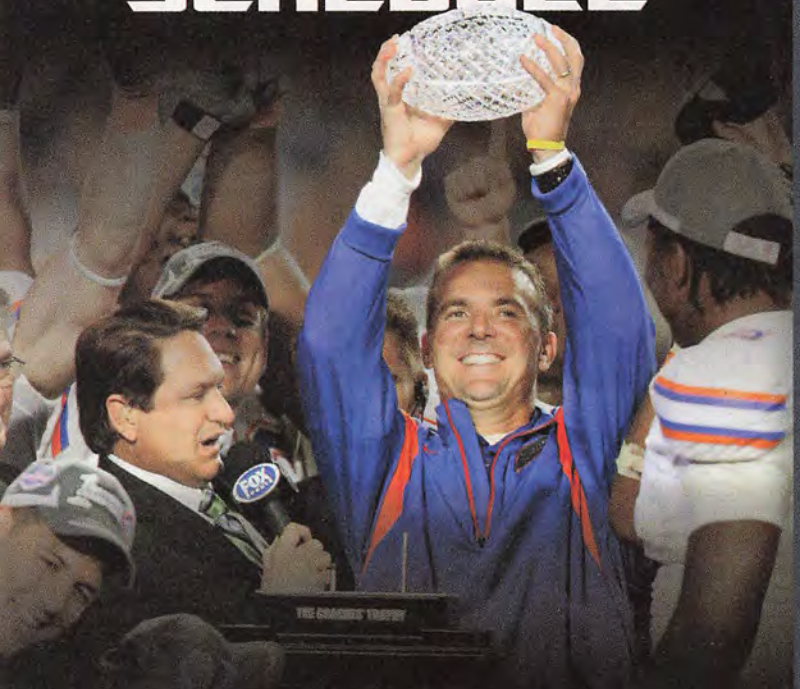
***Coach:*** *Tom Williams* ***Colors:*** *Yale Blue & White*
***Nickname:*** *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *6-4*

### YOUNGSTOWN STATE
*Youngstown, OH*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.5 | @PITTSBURGH | |
| S.12 | Austin Peay | |
| S.19 | @NORTHEASTERN | |
| S.26 | @INDIANA STATE | 35-21 |
| O.3 | Missouri State | 28-42 |
| O.10 | Western Illinois | 31-28 |
| O.24 | @SOUTHERN ILLINOIS | 0-33 |
| O.31 | South Dakota State | 7-40 |
| N.7 | @NORTHERN IOWA | 20-21 |
| N.14 | Illinois State | 44-54 |
| N.21 | @NORTH DAKOTA STATE | 32-24 |

***Coach:*** *Jon Heacock* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
***Nickname:*** *Penguins* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

# 2009-10 BOWL SCHEDULE



## BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Jan. 7 (Pasadena, Calif)
#1 BCS vs. #2 BCS
8 p.m. on FOX

## ROSE BOWL

Jan. 1 (Pasadena, Calif.)
BCS vs. BCS
5:10 p.m. on ABC

## SUGAR BOWL

Jan. 1 (New Orleans)
BCS vs. BCS
8 p.m. on FOX

## FIESTA BOWL

Jan. 4 (Glendale, Ariz.)
BCS vs. BCS
8 p.m. on FOX

## ORANGE BOWL

Jan. 5 (Miami, Fla.)
BCS vs. BCS
8 p.m. on FOX

**New Mexico Bowl**
Dec. 19 (Albuquerque, N.M.)
MWC vs. MAC
4:30 p.m. on ESPN

**St. Petersburg Bowl**
Dec. 19 (St. Petersburg, Fla.)
Big East vs. C-USA
8 p.m. on ESPN

**New Orleans Bowl**
Dec. 20 (New Orleans, La.)
Sun Belt vs. C-USA
8:15 p.m. on ESPN

**MAACO Bowl Las Vegas**
Dec. 22 (Las Vegas)
MWC vs. Pac-10
8 p.m. on ESPN

**Poinsettia Bowl**
Dec. 23 (San Diego)
MWC vs. Pac-10
8 p.m. on ESPN

**Sheraton Hawaii Bowl**
Dec. 24 (Honolulu)
WAC vs. Pac-10
8 p.m. on ESPN

**Motor City Bowl**
Dec. 26 (Detroit)
MAC vs. Big 10
1 p.m. on ESPN

**Meineke Car Care Bowl**
Dec. 26 (Charlotte, N.C.)
ACC vs. Big East
4:30 p.m. on ESPN

**Emerald Bowl**
Dec. 26 (San Francisco)
Pac-10 vs. ACC
8 p.m. on ESPN

**Music City Bowl**
Dec. 27 (Nashville, Tenn.)
ACC vs. SEC
8:15 p.m. on ESPN

**Independence Bowl**
Dec. 28 (Shreveport, La.)
Big 12 vs. SEC
5 p.m. on ESPN

**EagleBank Bowl**
Dec. 29 (Washington, D.C.)
ACC vs. Army or C-USA
4:30 p.m. on ESPN

**Champs Sports Bowl**
Dec. 29 (Orlando, Fla.)
ACC vs. Big Ten
8 p.m. on ESPN

**Humanitarian Bowl**
Dec. 30 (Boise, Idaho)
WAC vs. MWC
4:30 p.m. on ESPN

**Holiday Bowl**
Dec. 30 (San Diego)
Pac-10 vs. Big 12
8:30 p.m. on ESPN

**Texas Bowl**
Dec. 30 (Houston)
Big 12 vs. Navy or C-USA
TBA

**Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl**
Dec. 31 (Fort Worth, Texas)
MWC vs. C-USA
TBA on ESPN

**Sun Bowl**
Dec. 31 (El Paso, Texas)
Pac-10 vs. Big East/Big 12/Notre Dame
2 p.m. on CBS

**Insight Bowl**
Dec. 31 (Tempe, Ariz.)
Big 10 vs. Big 12
6 p.m. on NFL Network

**Chick-fil-a Bowl**
Dec. 31 (Atlanta)
ACC vs. SEC
7:30 p.m. on ESPN

**Outback Bowl**
Jan. 1 (Tampa, Fla.)
SEC vs. Big 10
11 a.m. on ESPN

**Gator Bowl**
Jan. 1 (Jacksonville, Fla.)
ACC vs. Big 12/Big East/Notre Dame
1 p.m. on CBS

**Capital One Bowl**
Jan. 1 (Orlando, Fla.)
SEC vs. Big 10
1 p.m. on ABC

**International Bowl**
Jan. 2 (Toronto)
Big East/Notre Dame vs. MAC
Noon on ESPN

**Cotton Bowl**
Jan. 2 (Arlington, Texas)
Big 12 vs. SEC
2 p.m. on ESPN

**Papajohns.com Bowl**
Jan. 2 (Birmingham, Ala.)
Big East vs. SEC
2 p.m. on ESPN

**Liberty Bowl**
Jan. 2 (Memphis, Tenn.)
SEC vs. C-USA
4:30 p.m. on ESPN

**Alamo Bowl**
Jan. 2 (San Antonio)
Big 12 vs. Big 10
9 p.m. on ESPN

**GMAC Bowl**
Jan. 6 (Mobile, Ala.)
C-USA vs. MAC
6 p.m. on ESPN

*All times Eastern*

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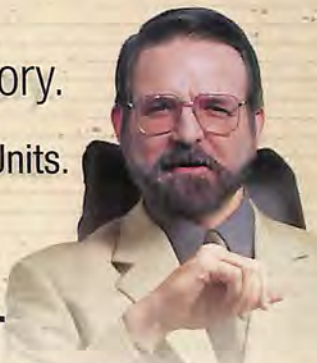
**FACT:** **50 Wins,** 14 Losses, 3 Pushes in 67 Games Rated 50 to 200 Units.

**FACT:** **78%** Certified, Documented Winning Percentage.

**FACT:** **$218,475 WON** by $100 per Unit Players including Parlays.



**What's going on? How did all this come about? I'm Kelso Sturgeon.** They call me the *"Dean of Las Vegas Handicappers."* I have the best numbers in football. I should. I'm a former SEC scout and sat at the feet of the legendary Bear Bryant of Alabama. I also tutored under coach Hank Stram of the Chiefs. Coach Stram taught me his system for analyzing the comparative strength of teams, and I have been making money with that information for 35 years. Early last year I decided to let the computer do some of the heavy lifting. I commissioned a Silicon Valley learning lab to do a five-year study of 9,160 College and NFL football games against the spread - i.e., it was my basic program computerized to get a fix on which factors counted the most. The aim was to create a program that could predict the point spread between any two teams. To cut to the chase, the project took quite a few months.

## But the RESULTS were jaw dropping!

The study revealed what were the key elements to beating the spread. My algorithm – refined after 100,000 passes – and applied to the 2008 football season - **identified:**

- **A few teams graded out as 100% to cover.**
- **A higher number of teams rated 90% verses the spread.**
- **An even higher number of teams could be counted on to cover 75%.**

## Fantastic – now how do we prove it?

**Simple: "test" this method under "game day" conditions.** That's what I did. Starting with the first Thursday & Friday of the college season last August, using all my new tools. **I went 4 and 1 against the spread. In the 4 winning games, I gave up an average of 9.5 points a game and WON THEM BY AN AVERAGE OF 26 POINTS PER GAME.**

This system was pinpointing teams that were **beating the spread by almost 17 points per game.** In 40 years of handicapping, I had never seen any system or method that accurate or that powerful.

## *And, the winning NEVER stopped!*

Now, I could write pages and pages of copy praising this system. But I'd rather just let the results speak for themselves. Once you see how strong these plays were, I can't imagine that you wouldn't want to join my **Personal Best Service** for this 2009 season.

### Kelso Sturgeon's Personal Best 2008 Football Record
### 200 UNIT SELECTIONS

| DATE | UNITS | TEAM | LINE | TEAM | SCORE | W/L | NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1/1 | 200 | Georgia | (-8) | Michigan St. | 24-12 | W | Bowl Game of Yr. |
| 12/14 | 200 | Patriots | (-7) | Raiders | 49-26 | W | NFL Blowout of Yr. |
| 11/30 | 200 | Ravens | (-7) | Bengals | 34-3 | W | NFL Power Play |
| 11/22 | 200 | UNLV | (-10) | San Diego St.. | 21-42 | L | Conf. Blowout Yr. |
| 10/19 | 200 | Titans | (-8 ½) | Chiefs | 34-10 | W | NFL Game of Year |
| 10/11 | 200 | Air Force | (-10½) | San Diego St. | 35-10 | W | College GOY |

- **1,975 Units UP for the 2008 NFL/College Combined Seasons**
- **5-1 in 200 Unit Games**
- **14-6-1 in 100 & 200 Units Games**
- **50-14-3 in 50 Unit, 100 Unit, and 200 Unit Games**
- **100% (6-0) in Big Play Parlays**
- **The total win figure of $218,475** based on the 50/100/200 unit plays, includes parlays that paid off at 13-5 & parlays that turned into 2 individual bets because of a tie in one end of he parlay.

See the complete record online: **www.KelsoSportsHandicapping.com**

## Beginners luck or have we struck gold?

Last year was the first exercise in a continuing search for more winners and bigger profits. Since the Super Bowl, I have supervised my Palo Alto group in breaking down theresults, looking to maintain our win percentages and to make **SURE** we do as well in 2009!

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- **BEST NFL Plays Weekly**
- **ALL 50 Unit Games**
- **ALL 100 Unit Games**
- **ALL 200 Unit Lock Plays**
- **ALL Monday/Thursday Selections**

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